



## COMcheck and the 2010 Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code

With the adoption of the 2010 *Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code* (OEESC), there is a new tool for demonstrating energy code compliance, COMcheck. COMcheck is compliance software developed by the United States Department of Energy and customized to measure compliance with Oregon's energy code.

For demonstrating compliance with the previous energy codes, local jurisdictions required permit applicants to provide completed energy code compliance forms. Authority for this requirement existed in Section 1306.2; *"The applicant shall submit documents showing compliance with the requirements of this chapter. This documentation shall be in a manner approved by the Building Codes Division."* This language was in addition to the authority in Chapter 1, Section 101.6.1 of the 2007 OSSC, which allowed the building official to request whatever documentation necessary to determine compliance with any provision of the code to their satisfaction. The Oregon Department of Energy created and maintained Excel based compliance forms to provide a standardized method for permit applicants to demonstrate compliance with the energy code.

Can the previous forms be used for compliance with the new code?

The existing Excel based spreadsheets have **not** been overhauled to work with the new energy code and will not be acceptable for demonstrating compliance with the 2010 OEESC. The new tool for demonstrating compliance is COMcheck. This software has been adjusted to specifically measure compliance with Oregon's energy code.

What is the authority under the 2010 OEESC and OSSC to require COMcheck?

Even though the 2010 energy provisions are located in a stand-alone code instead of within the OSSC, the administration and enforcement of the OEESC remains through the OSSC. Section 102 Part 2 of the OEESC states: *"This code is administered and enforced under the provisions and authority granted in Chapter 1 of the Building Code"*. Section 107.2.1 of the 2010 OSSC states, in part: *"Construction documents shall be of sufficient clarity to indicate the location, nature and extent of work proposed and show in detail that it will conform to the provisions of this code and relevant laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, as determined by the building official."* COMcheck has been developed to be used as the tool for demonstrating compliance with the 2010 OEESC and replaces the Excel based compliance forms.

The 2010 OEESC was adopted July 1, 2010 with a 90 day grace period ending September 30, 2010. Designs meeting Chapter 13 of the 2007 OSSC or the 2010 OEESC are acceptable as long as they have been received by the local jurisdiction prior to October 1, 2010. The required compliance documentation during the grace period is dependant on the code used for design. The existing Excel based compliance forms should be used for designs complying with Chapter 13 of the 2007 OSSC, and COMcheck should be used for designs meeting the 2010 OEESC.

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