

## CHAPTER 2 [RE]

# DEFINITIONS

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**User note:**

**About this chapter:** Codes, by their very nature, are technical documents. Every word, term and punctuation mark can add to or change the meaning of a technical requirement. It is necessary to maintain a consensus on the specific meaning of each term contained in the code. Chapter 2 performs this function by stating clearly what specific terms mean for the purpose of the code.

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### SECTION R201 GENERAL

**R201.1 Scope.** Unless stated otherwise, the following words and terms in this code shall have the meanings indicated in this chapter.

**R201.2 Interchangeability.** Words used in the present tense include the future; words in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

**R201.3 Terms defined in other codes.** Terms that are not defined in this code but are defined in the *International Building Code*, *International Fire Code*, *International Fuel Gas Code*, *International Mechanical Code*, *Uniform Plumbing Code* or the *International Residential Code* shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those codes.

**R201.4 Terms not defined.** Terms not defined by this chapter shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

### SECTION R202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**ABOVE-GRADE WALL.** A wall enclosing *conditioned space* that is not a below-grade wall. This includes between-floor spandrels, peripheral edges of floors, roof and basement knee walls, dormer walls, gable end walls, walls enclosing a mansard roof and skylight shafts.

**ACCESSIBLE.** Admitting close approach as a result of not being guarded by locked doors, elevation or other effective means (see “Readily *accessible*”).

**ADDITION.** An extension or increase in the *conditioned space* floor area, number of stories, or height of a building or structure.

**ADVANCED FRAMED WALLS.** Studs framed on 24-inch centers with double top plate and single bottom plate. Corners use two studs or other means of fully insulating corners, and one stud is used to support each header. Headers consist of double 2x material with R-10 insulation between the header and exterior sheathing. Interior partition wall/exterior wall intersections are fully insulated in the exterior wall. (See **Standard Framing** and Appendix A, of this code.)

**AIR BARRIER.** One or more materials joined together in a continuous manner to restrict or prevent the passage of air through the building thermal envelope and its assemblies.

**AIR-IMPERMEABLE INSULATION.** An insulation that functions as an air barrier material.

**ALTERATION.** Any construction, retrofit or renovation to an existing structure other than *repair* or *addition*. Also, a change in a building, electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system that involves an extension, addition or change to the arrangement, type or purpose of the original installation.

**APPROVED.** Acceptable to the *code official*.

**APPROVED AGENCY.** An established and recognized agency that is regularly engaged in conducting tests or furnishing inspection services, or furnishing product certification, where such agency has been approved by the code official.

**AUTOMATIC.** Self-acting, operating by its own mechanism when actuated by some impersonal influence, as, for example, a change in current strength, pressure, temperature or mechanical configuration (see “Manual”).

**BASEMENT WALL.** See *above-grade wall* and *below-grade wall*.

**BELOW-GRADE WALL.** That portion of a wall in the building envelope that is entirely below the finish grade and in contact with the ground.

**BUILDING.** Any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy, including any mechanical systems, service water heating systems and electric power and lighting systems located on the building site and supporting the building.

**BUILDING SITE.** A contiguous area of land that is under the ownership or control of one entity.

## DEFINITIONS

**BUILDING THERMAL ENVELOPE.** The below-grade walls, above-grade walls, floors, ceiling, roofs, and any other building element assemblies that enclose conditioned space or provide a boundary between *conditioned space* and exempt or unconditioned space.

**C-FACTOR (THERMAL CONDUCTANCE).** The coefficient of heat transmission (surface to surface) through a building component or assembly, equal to the time rate of heat flow per unit area and the unit temperature difference between the warm side and cold side surfaces (Btu/h ft<sup>2</sup> × °F) [W/(m<sup>2</sup> × K)].

**CIRCULATING HOT WATER SYSTEM.** A specifically designed water distribution system where one or more pumps are operated in the service hot water piping to circulate heated water from the water-heating equipment to the fixture supply and back to the water-heating equipment.

**CLIMATE ZONE.** A geographical region based on climatic criteria as specified in this code.

**CODE OFFICIAL.** The officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or a duly authorized representative.

**COMMERCIAL BUILDING.** For this code, all buildings that are not included in the definition of “Residential building.”

**CONDITIONED FLOOR AREA.** The horizontal projection of the floors associated with the *conditioned space*.

**CONDITIONED SPACE.** An area, room or space that is enclosed within the *building thermal envelope* and that is directly or indirectly heated or cooled. Spaces are indirectly heated or cooled where they communicate through openings with conditioned spaces, where they are separated from conditioned spaces by uninsulated walls, floors or ceilings, or where they contain uninsulated ducts, piping or other sources of heating or cooling.

**CONNECTED THERMOSTAT.** An internet enabled device that automatically adjusts heating and cooling temperature settings.

**CONTINUOUS AIR BARRIER.** A combination of materials and assemblies that restrict or prevent the passage of air through the *building thermal envelope*.

**CONTINUOUS INSULATION (ci).** Insulating material that is continuous across all structural members without thermal bridges other than fasteners and service openings. It is installed on the interior or exterior, or is integral to any opaque surface, of the *building envelope*.

**CURTAIN WALL.** Fenestration products used to create an external nonload-bearing wall that is designed to separate the exterior and interior environments.

**DEMAND RECIRCULATION WATER SYSTEM.** A water distribution system having one or more recirculation pumps that pump water from a heated water supply pipe back to the heated water source through a cold water supply pipe.

**DUCT.** A tube or conduit utilized for conveying air. The air passages of self-contained systems are not to be construed as air ducts.

**DUCT SYSTEM.** A continuous passageway for the transmission of air that, in addition to ducts, includes duct fittings, dampers, plenums, fans and accessory air-handling equipment and appliances.

**DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP SYSTEM.** A heating and cooling system that is comprised of one or multiple indoor evaporator/air-handling units and an outdoor condensing unit that is connected by refrigerant piping and electrical wiring. A ductless mini-split system is capable of cooling or heating one or more rooms without the use of a central ductwork system.

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**ENERGY ANALYSIS.** A method for estimating the annual energy use of the *proposed design* and *standard reference design* based on estimates of energy use.

**ENERGY COST.** The total estimated annual cost for purchased energy for the building functions regulated by this code, including applicable demand charges.

**ENERGY SIMULATION TOOL.** An *approved* software program or calculation-based methodology that projects the annual energy use of a *building*.

**EXTERIOR WALL.** Walls including both above-grade walls and below-grade walls.

**FENESTRATION.** Products classified as either *vertical fenestration* or *skylights*.

**VERTICAL FENESTRATION.** Windows (fixed or operable), glazed doors, glazed block and combination opaque/glazed doors composed of glass or other transparent or translucent glazing materials and installed at a slope of not less than 60 degrees from horizontal. Opaque areas such as spandrel panels are not considered vertical fenestration.

**SKYLIGHT.** Glass or other transparent or translucent glazing material installed at a slope of less than 60 degrees from horizontal.

**FENESTRATION AREA.** Total area of the fenestration measured using the rough opening, and including the glazing, sash and frame.

**FENESTRATION PRODUCT, FIELD-FABRICATED.** A fenestration product whose frame is made at the construction site of standard dimensional lumber or other materials that were not previously cut, or otherwise formed with the specific intention of being used to fabricate a fenestration product or exterior door. Field fabricated does not include site-built fenestration.

**FENESTRATION PRODUCT, SITE-BUILT.** A fenestration designed to be made up of field-glazed or field-assembled units using specific factory cut or otherwise factory-formed framing and glazing units. Examples of site-built fenestration include store-front systems, curtain walls, and atrium roof systems.

**F-FACTOR.** The perimeter heat loss factor for slab-on-grade floors (Btu/h × ft × °F) [W/(m × K)].

**HEATED SLAB-ON-GRADE FLOOR.** Slab-on-grade floor construction in which the heating elements, hydronic tubing, or hot air distribution system is in contact with, or placed within or under, the slab.

**HIGH-EFFICACY LIGHT SOURCES.** Fixtures that use light emitting diodes (LED), T-8 or smaller diameter linear fluorescent lamps, or other lamps with a minimum efficacy of 65 lumens per watt.

**HISTORIC BUILDINGS.** Buildings that are listed in or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or designated as historic under an appropriate state or local law.

**INFILTRATION.** The uncontrolled inward air leakage into a *building* caused by the pressure effects of wind or the effect of differences in the indoor and outdoor air density or both.

**INSULATING SHEATHING.** An insulating board with a core material having a minimum *R*-value of R-2.

**INSULATING SIDING.** A type of continuous insulation with manufacturer-installed insulating material as an integral part of the cladding product having a minimum *R*-value of R-2.

**INSULATING SIDING.** A type of continuous insulation with manufacturer-installed insulating material as an integral part of the cladding product having a minimum *R*-value of R-2.

**INTEGRATED ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATIO (IEER).** A single-number figure of merit expressing cooling part-load EER efficiency for unitary air-conditioning and heat pump equipment on the basis of weighted operation at various load capacities for the equipment.

**INTERMEDIATE FRAMED WALLS.** Studs framed on 16-inch centers with double top plate and single bottom plate. Corners use two studs or other means of fully insulating corners, and each opening is framed by two studs. Headers shall be insulated to R-10.

**LABELED.** Equipment, materials or products to which have been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, *approved* agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**LISTED.** Equipment, materials, products or services included in a list published by an organization acceptable to the *code official* and concerned with evaluation of products or services that maintains periodic inspection of production of *listed* equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services and whose listing states either that the equipment, material, product or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**LOG STRUCTURE.** A type of construction whose primary structural elements are formed by a system of logs.

**LOG WALL.** An assembly of individual structural logs for use as an exterior or interior load bearing wall, shear wall or non-load bearing wall.

**LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING.** A lighting system consisting of an isolating power supply, the low voltage luminaires, and associated equipment that are all identified for the use. The output circuits of the power supply operate at 30 volts (42.4 volts peak) or less under all load conditions.

**MANUAL.** Capable of being operated by personal intervention (see “Automatic”).

**OPAQUE DOOR.** A door that is not less than 50 percent opaque in surface area.

**PILOT LIGHT, CONTINUOUSLY BURNING.** A small gas flame used to ignite gas at a larger burning. Once lit, a continuously pilot light remains in operation until manually interrupted. Pilot light ignition systems with the ability to switch between intermittent and continuous mode are considered continuous.

**PILOT LIGHT, INTERMITTENT.** A pilot which is automatically ignited when an appliance is called on to operate and which remains continuously ignited during each period of main burner operation. The pilot is automatically extinguished when each main burner operating cycle is completed.

**PILOT LIGHT, INTERRUPTED.** A pilot which is automatically ignited prior to the admission of fuel to the main burner and which is automatically extinguished after the main flame is established.

**PILOT LIGHT, ON-DEMAND.** A pilot which, once placed into operation, is intended to remain ignited for a predetermined period of time following an automatic or manual operation of the main burner gas valve.

**PROPOSED DESIGN.** A description of the proposed *building* used to estimate annual energy use for determining compliance based on total building performance.

**READILY ACCESSIBLE.** Capable of being reached quickly for operation, renewal or inspection without requiring those to whom ready access is requisite to climb over or remove obstacles or to resort to portable ladders or access equipment (see “*Accessible*”).

**REPAIR.** The reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing *building* for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage.

**REROOFING.** The process of recovering or replacing an existing roof covering. See “Roof recover” and “Roof replacement.”

**RESIDENTIAL BUILDING.** For this code, includes detached one- and two-family dwellings, multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) and Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less in height above grade plane, as well as accessory structures thereto.

**ROOF ASSEMBLY.** A system designed to provide weather protection and resistance to design loads. The system consists of a roof covering and roof deck or a single component serving as both the roof covering and the roof deck. A roof assembly includes the roof covering, underlayment and roof deck, and can also include a thermal barrier, an ignition barrier, insulation or a vapor retarder.

**ROOF RE-COVER.** The process of installing an additional roof covering over a prepared existing roof covering without removing the existing roof covering.

**ROOF REPAIR.** Reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purposes of its maintenance.

**ROOF REPLACEMENT.** The process of removing the existing roof covering, repairing any damaged substrate and installing a new roof covering.

**R-VALUE (THERMAL RESISTANCE).** The inverse of the time rate of heat flow through a body from one of its bounding surfaces to the other surface for a unit temperature difference between the two surfaces, under steady state conditions, per unit area ( $h \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F/Btu$ ) [ $(m^2 \cdot K)/W$ ].

**SERVICE WATER HEATING.** Supply of hot water for purposes other than comfort heating.

**SLAB-ON-GRADE FLOOR.** That portion of a slab floor of the building envelope that is in contact with the ground and that is either above grade or is less than or equal to 24 inches below the final elevation of the nearest exterior grade.

**SMALL BUSINESS.** Any business entity (including a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership or other legal entity) which is owned and operated independently from all other businesses, which has the purpose of making a profit, and which has fifty or fewer employees.

**SOLAR HEAT GAIN COEFFICIENT (SHGC).** The ratio of the solar heat gain entering the space through the fenestration assembly to the incident solar radiation. Solar heat gain includes directly transmitted solar heat and absorbed solar radiation which is then reradiated, conducted or convected into the space.

**STANDARD FRAMING.** All framing practices not defined as “intermediate” or “advanced” shall be considered standard. (See *Advanced Framed Wall*, *Intermediate Framed Wall*).

**STANDARD REFERENCE DESIGN.** A version of the *proposed design* that meets the minimum requirements of this code and is used to determine the maximum annual energy use requirement for compliance based on total building performance.

**THERMAL ISOLATION.** Physical and space conditioning separation from *conditioned space(s)*. The *conditioned space(s)* shall be controlled as separate zones for heating and cooling or conditioned by separate equipment.

**THERMOSTAT.** An automatic control device used to maintain temperature at a fixed or adjustable set point.

**U-FACTOR (THERMAL TRANSMITTANCE).** The coefficient of heat transmission (air to air) through a building component or assembly, equal to the time rate of heat flow per unit area and unit temperature difference between the warm side and cold side air films ( $Btu/h \cdot ft^2 \cdot ^\circ F$ ) [ $W/(m^2 \cdot K)$ ].

**UNHEATED SLAB-ON-GRADE FLOOR.** A slab-on-grade floor that is not a heated slab-on-grade floor.

**VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**VENTILATION AIR.** That portion of supply air that comes from outside (outdoors) plus any recirculated air that has been treated to maintain the desired quality of air within a designated space.

**VISIBLE TRANSMITTANCE [VT].** The ratio of visible light entering the space through the fenestration product assembly to the incident visible light, visible transmittance, includes the effects of glazing material and frame and is expressed as a number between 0 and 1.

**WHOLE HOUSE MECHANICAL VENTILATION SYSTEM.** An exhaust system, supply system, or combination thereof that is designed to mechanically exchange indoor air with outdoor air when operating continuously or through a programmed intermittent schedule to satisfy the whole house ventilation rates.

**ZONE.** A space or group of spaces within a *building* with heating or cooling requirements that are sufficiently similar so that desired conditions can be maintained throughout using a single controlling device.