

This document provides short definitions for terms used in discussions about window and door performance and regulation.

BCBC. British Columbia Building Code. Generally applies throughout BC except in the City of Vancouver which has its own building code. See VBBL.

B.C. Green Building Code. The BC Green Building code is a set of amendments to the existing building code intended to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. For more information see www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/.

Building Officials. A term describing the various officials who create or enforce building regulations.

Canadian Supplement. This is a companion document to the NAFS harmonized standard. The complete description is AAMA/WDMA/CSA101/I.S.2/A440S1-07, "Canadian Supplement to AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440-05, Standard/Specification for windows, doors, and unit skylights".

CSA. Canadian Standards Association. The Canadian Standards Association is a not-for-profit membership-based association serving business, industry, government and consumers in Canada and the global marketplace.

Code. The building code. Depending on the context, it could refer to the NBCC, the BCBC, the VBBL, or another local or municipal building regulation. See Model National Building Code.

Code Officials. See Building Officials.

Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation. The BC Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation is a part of the BC Energy Efficiency Act, and regulates the energy performance of products that use energy or that affect the use of energy. The Regulation was amended on July 13 2006 to provide new energy efficiency regulations for a number of products including manufactured fenestration products: windows, doors and skylights. You can read the regulation at www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/E/389_93.htm.

Energy Star. A government funded marketing program that identifies energy efficient products and promotes them in the marketplace. First developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency, it is jointly run with the Department of Energy in the US. In Canada the program is operated by Natural Resources Canada. Participation in the Energy Star program is voluntary.

Energy Regulation. A short term for the BC Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation.

Green Building Code. See B.C. Green Building Code or Vancouver Green Building Code.

Harmonized standard. The "Standard/Specification for windows, doors, and unit skylights", AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440-05, was published in 2005 and was intended to apply to products manufactured in the US and Canada. It is also known as the North American Fenestration Standard (NAFS). The 2005 version is called NAFS-05, and the 2008 version is called NAFS-08. It will be updated in 2011.

I-Codes. The collection of building codes published by the International Codes Council (ICC). The I-Codes are created primarily for the US, but may also be adopted by other nations if they choose. There are two main building codes: the International Building Code (IBC) for commercial and institutional buildings, and the International Residential Code (IRC) for residential buildings. For more information see www.iccsafe.org.

IBC. International Building Code. See I-Codes.

IRC. International Residential Code. See I-Codes.

Model National Building Code (MNBC). The National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) is developed in consultation with the provinces and territories. Provinces may choose to adopt the NBCC in its entirety or with modifications. Provinces such as British Columbia can issue their own building codes. These are based on the NBCC with modifications deemed necessary to adapt the code to better meet local conditions.

MEMPR. The British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources. This ministry is responsible for the BC Energy Regulation.

NAFS. See Harmonized Standard.

Natural Resources Canada. The Canadian government department responsible for earth sciences, forestry, energy and minerals and metals to ensure the responsible and sustainable development of Canada's natural resources.

NCC. National Construction Codes. The set of Canadian National Building Codes, including the National Building Code of Canada (NBC), the National Fire Code of Canada (NFC) and the National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC).

NBCC or NBC. National Building Code of Canada. The NBC is prepared by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and is published by the National Research Council of Canada. The NBCC is one of Canada's National Construction Codes. See NCC. For more information see www.nationalcodes.ca/nbc/index_e.shtml.

NFRC. National Fenestration Rating Council. NFRC is a US-based non-profit organization that administers a uniform, independent rating and labeling system for the energy performance of windows, doors, skylights, and attachment products. For more information see www.nfrc.org.

NFRC label. The temporary label that shows the thermal performance attributes of a product whose thermal performance is certified under the NFRC certification program.

NRCan or NRCAN. Acronym for Natural Resources Canada.

Part 3. One of the main sections of the NBCC. It is titled "Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility". The term "Part 3 building" is a short way of referring to larger buildings that are not covered by Part 9 of the code.

Part 5. One of the main sections of the NBCC. It is titled "Environmental Separation" and deals with building envelope requirements.

Part 9. One of the main sections of the NBCC. It is titled "Housing and Small Buildings". The term "Part 9" is a short way of referring to the part of the code dealing with residential construction requirements.

Simulation. In the context of energy performance, simulation refers to the process of determining a product's energy performance by means of computer simulations.

Testing. The act of determining a window or door product's attributes by means of physical tests performed in accordance with an accepted standard or test method.

Vancouver Green Building Code. The City of Vancouver Green Homes Program will include changes to the Vancouver Building By-law. For more information see www.vancouver.ca/commsvcs/CBOFFICIAL/greenhomes/index.htm.

VBBL. Vancouver Building By-law, the City of Vancouver's building code. See www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/commsvcs/cbofficial/vbbl/.