

9.36 PROJECT SUMMARY USER GUIDE

Introduction

Section 9.36 of the National Building Code of Canada 2023 - Alberta Edition (NBC 2023-AE, herein referred to as "Building Code") details new energy efficiency requirements for housing and small buildings. It includes three options for compliance: Prescriptive, Trade-off, and Performance Compliance.

To facilitate compliance, the City of Lethbridge has created the 9.36 Project Summary form outlining the requirements and compliance options for the Building Code. This guide provides information and direction on how to complete this form.

A completed 9.36 Project Summary form is required for all relevant Building Permit applications starting May 1, 2024.

Completing the 9.36 Project Summary Form

Basic Building Information

Regardless of the compliance path chosen, certain information is required for all buildings seeking compliance with the Building Code. This information must be completed for all projects and be consistent with the accompanying drawings.

Basic information includes:

- Climate Zone – Lethbridge has 4500 HDD (Climate Zone 6)
- Building Area – As defined in Section 1.4.1.2 Division A of the Building Code

Selecting a Compliance Path

Select one compliance path. Multiple compliance paths are not permitted on a single building. Specific requirements associated with the individual compliance paths are found on the form and explained in greater detail below.

Prescriptive Compliance Path

This section describes the minimum information that must be included for prescriptive compliance. It may take the form of notes or additional drawings. If the proposed assemblies and components meet the required values of 9.36.2 to 9.36.4, you will have demonstrated compliance.

A list of drawing details to illustrate how air barrier and insulation continuity at joints, transitions and changes in assemblies is also included. These details will be specific to the chosen air barrier/insulation system.

Trade-off Compliance Path

A second compliance path allows applicants to "trade-off" building envelope requirements, subject to limitations found in the Building Code. These include:

- Total areas must be the same for both parts of the calculation
- You may only trade-off between assemblies from the building envelope, not HVAC or Hot Water
- You may only trade opaque for opaque assemblies OR transparent for transparent assemblies
- If you trade windows for windows, they must be on the same elevation

Demonstrating compliance under the trade-off path requires all the information for prescriptive compliance, plus:

- Trade-off calculations must be submitted ([click here to download](#))
- Using a hatch, shading, or other means, the trade-off areas must be indicated on the accompanying drawing submission

Performance Compliance Path

The performance compliance path employs a computer simulation software or calculations to compare a proposed design with a hypothetical reference building to show that the proposed design will use less energy over the course of an operational year. The Building Code outlines the procedures for performing this comparison.

The 9.36 Project summary requires a number of values to be provided in order to allow verification of the model inputs. A brief outline of some of these inputs and their requirements follows:

Reference Model

The reference model must be constructed according to the Building Code. In the reference building, **Airtightness**, **SHGC**, **Thermal Mass**, and **Solar Absorbance** must use values specified in 9.36.5.14.

FDWR for the reference building is based on the FDWR of the proposed building, according to the following table:

Buildings Containing 1 or 2 Dwelling Units	
Actual FDWR	FDWR for Reference Model
< 17	17
17 - 22	Match actual FDWR
> 22	22
Buildings Containing More Than 2 Dwelling Units	
Actual FDWR	FDWR for Reference Model
0 - 40	Match actual FDWR
> 40	40
<p>NOTE: For the purposes of the reference building, the area of glazing arrived at above shall be divided equally among the elevations of the building in the model. The following boxes on the form allow you to indicate the areas entered in the model for each elevation.</p>	

HVAC System Efficiency is to be indicated based on the required efficiency rating from Table 9.36.3.10 for the type and size of equipment specified in the proposed design. If the proposed design equipment is not included in the table, the reference house should be based on a gas-fired warm air furnace with an efficiency of 92%.

Space Cooling Efficiency, if installed, shall meet the efficiency value for the relevant type of equipment as found in Table 9.36.3.10.

Service Water Heater Efficiency shall be indicated as the value shown in Table 9.36.4.2 (or Table 9.36.5.16, if appropriate) and shall be the same type, size, and fuel type as the proposed house.

Ventilation Rate shall be set at the value derived from Table 9.32.3.3 based on the number of bedrooms.

Proposed Model

Airtightness for the proposed house is a choice to be made by the designer.

Airtightness Level	Construction Requirements
3.2	Install an air barrier system in accordance with 9.25.3
2.5	Install an air barrier system in accordance with 9.36.2.10
< 2.5	Conduct a blower door test to verify that the specified air leakage rate has been achieved
<p>NOTE: The results of this test must be supplied to the Building Inspector prior to occupancy. Should the blower door test indicate that the air leakage rate is greater than that specified at permit stage then along with the blower door results, a revised model report using the actual test value will need to be submitted to the Building Inspector prior to occupancy.</p>	

SHGC will be based on the specification of the actual windows proposed for the house and calculated in accordance with 9.36.2.2.

Thermal Mass can be calculated for the proposed house in accordance with 9.36.5.10 or the default value of 0.06 may be used.

Solar Absorbance is held constant between the proposed and reference models and therefore should be 0.4.

FDWR will be entered as the actual value calculated, distributed in the model per the design. The following boxes on the form allow you to indicate the areas for each elevation and should reflect the drawings.

HVAC System Efficiency will be the efficiency of the actual specified equipment.

Space Cooling Efficiency shall be the efficiency of the actual proposed equipment if installed.

Service Water Heater Efficiency will be the efficiency of the actual specified equipment.

Performance Data Summary

Enter the energy use values generated by the reference and proposed models. Compliance is demonstrated when the Calculated Energy use is equal to or less than the Target Energy Use.

Software

The software used to perform the energy simulation will be detailed here. No specific software package is mandated however whichever software is chosen must have been tested to ANSI/ASHRAE 140 and have any changes or variations made to/within the software listed.

Declaration

Code requires a declaration be made that the calculations have been completed in compliance with all the rules outlined in 9.36.5. In order that the Safety Codes officer can discuss anything arising from the calculations contact information shall be provided for the person who prepared them.

Should the project be particularly complex, or the calculations have significant deficiencies the Safety Codes Officer may request a professional stamp and signature accompany the calculations.