

# Code Update Corner

## New Energy Code Requires Energy Component Sticker in All New Homes

On July 27, 2007 the Construction Industries Commission (CIC) approved adoption of the 2006 New Mexico Building Codes that had gone to public hearing earlier in the month. As usual, there is a six-month phase-in of the new codes. Contractors pulling permits from January 1 through June 30, 2008 may choose whether they wish to build to the 2003 or 2006 codes. As of July 1, 2008, all permits must be issued under the new building codes.

The 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) requires that all residential construction include a permanent certificate (sticker) in or on the electrical panel that states the energy efficiency of the building envelope and the plumbing/mechanical equipment. Permits pulled through June 30, 2008 will not have to include this sticker unless the builder has chosen to comply with the 2006

IECC. This requirement applies to homes constructed under both the prescriptive and performance methods.

Here is the applicable section of the code:

“401.3 Certificate. A permanent certificate shall be posted on or in the electrical distribution panel. The certificate shall be completed by the builder or registered design professional. The certificate shall list the predominant R-values of insulation installed in or on ceiling/roof, walls, foundation (slab, basement wall, crawlspace wall and/or floor) and ducts outside conditioned spaces; U-factors for fenestration; and the solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of fenestration. Where there is more than one value for each component, the certificate shall list the value covering the largest area. The certificate shall list the type and efficiency of heating, cooling and service water heating equipment.”

NMHBA is in the process of developing a sticker that would satisfy this requirement, and will have stickers available for sale soon.

Here is a sample of the type of information required by section 401.3:

Residence: _____
Predominant R-values of Insulation:
Ceiling/roof: R-____ Walls: N: R-____ S: R-____ E: R-____ W: R-____
Foundation: R-____ Slab: R-____ Basement/Crawlspace Wall: R-____ Floor: R-____
Ducts Outside Conditioned Space: R-____
U-Factors for Fenestration: U-____ Solar Heat Gain Coefficient: SHGC-____
Space Heating Equipment: Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Radiant <input type="checkbox"/> Forced air <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
AFUE Rating: _____ Other: _____
Cooling Equipment: Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioner (SEER Rating: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Evaporative
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Service Water Heating:
Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Tankless Electric <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Storage _____ gal. <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Storage _____ gal.
<input type="checkbox"/> Solar <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Fueled _____ gal. Efficiency Rating: E-_____
Builder: _____ License No. : _____
Phone: _____ Date: _____
<i>NEW MEXICO HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION</i> 1-800-523-8421

## MM-2, -3, -98 Authorized to Work on LP Systems

The Construction Industries Division (CID) received approval from the Construction Industries Commission for a new policy at the May 18, 2007 meeting, which accepts the exams for the MM-2, MM-3, and MM-98 license classifications for work on liquid propane (LP) gas systems in addition to natural gas systems. To add the LP-04 license MM-2 and MM-98 licensees must:

1. Submit an LP-04 license fee of \$125 to PSI;
2. Submit proof of general liability insurance (minimum \$500,000) to PSI;
3. Submit proof of certification in MM-2 or MM-98 to PSI.

When these three items have been submitted, PSI will issue an LP-4 license.

CID's permitting process (which many municipalities will follow) will require mechanical contractors with an LP-04 or LP-05 license to acquire a mechanical permit that specifies whether the installation is for natural gas or LP gas. All other procedures will be the same as for natural gas.

The CID policy took effect July 1, 2007, and mechanical contractors may apply for their LP-04 licenses now.