



Florida's 2026 Residential Energy Code Changes

A concise guide to the changes Florida project teams should plan for now.

EFFECTIVE DATE

**December 31,
2026**

The 9th Edition Florida Building Code raises performance stringency and adds testing, documentation, and coordination requirements for residential projects.

Six changes to plan for

1

A tougher performance target

Under the simulated performance path, the proposed design target moves from 95% to 85% of the standard reference design's annual normalized modified loads.

2

Added prescriptive efficiency credits

Prescriptive projects must earn credits using eligible strategies involving the envelope, fenestration, HVAC, water heating, distribution, renewables, controls, or lighting.

3

More testing and verification

The former performance-path exception from duct leakage testing is removed. Mechanical ventilation airflow testing, verification, and a test report are added.

4

Updated HVAC selection documentation

Cooling equipment selection is reorganized around Manual S options and capacity limits. Supplementary equipment manufacturer and model information must be submitted.

5

Tighter fenestration and skylight criteria

Skylight U-factor and solar heat gain limits tighten, while the performance path lowers the maximum average fenestration SHGC from 0.50 to 0.40. The changes apply in Florida Climate Zones 1 and 2.

6

Revised forms and compliance options

Florida forms are updated, a Mechanical Ventilation Test Report is added, and REScheck is removed as a residential compliance option in the approved analysis.

Keep the compliance paths distinct. Prescriptive and simulated-performance criteria do not apply identically to every project. Requirements vary by project, climate zone, compliance path, equipment, envelope, permit timing, and jurisdiction.

How Calcs-Plus can help

Calcs-Plus provides Florida residential Load & Energy calculations, Manual J load calculations, Manual S equipment selection, Manual D duct design, mechanical plans, and related services.

Ask Us About the Changes

For general questions about the 2026 code changes

Submit Your Project

For customers ready to request Calcs-Plus services

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Who should prepare now

Builders & permit professionals

Identify projects likely to cross the transition date.

HVAC contractors

Coordinate calculations, selection, ducts, and ventilation.

Architects & designers

Evaluate glazing, skylights, insulation, and credit options early.

Owners & developers

Confirm the code edition before budgets and equipment are locked.