

(3) encourage States and local governments to adopt and enforce such standards through their existing building codes and other construction control mechanisms, or to apply them through a special approval process.

(Pub. L. 94-385, title III, §302, Aug. 14, 1976, 90 Stat. 1144; Pub. L. 97-35, title X, §1041(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 621.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1981—Subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(2). Pub. L. 97-35 inserted “voluntary” before “performance standards”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-35 effective Aug. 13, 1981, see section 1038 of Pub. L. 97-35, set out as a note under section 6240 of this title.

SHORT TITLE

For short title of this subchapter as the “Energy Conservation Standards for New Buildings Act of 1976”, see section 301 of Pub. L. 94-385, set out as a note under section 6801 of this title.

§ 6832. Definitions

Except as otherwise provided, in this subchapter:

- (1) Omitted
- (2) The term “building” means any structure to be constructed which includes provision for a heating or cooling system, or both, or for a hot water system.
- (3) The term “building code” means a legal instrument which is in effect in a State or unit of general purpose local government, the provisions of which must be adhered to if a building is to be considered to be in conformance with law and suitable for occupancy and use.
- (4) The term “commercial building” means any building other than a residential building, including any building developed for industrial or public purposes.
- (5) The term “Federal agency” means any department, agency, corporation, or other entity or instrumentality of the executive branch of the Federal Government, including the United States Postal Service, the Federal National Mortgage Association, and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation.
- (6) The term “Federal building” means any building to be constructed by, or for the use of, any Federal agency. Such term shall include buildings built for the purpose of being leased by a Federal agency, and privatized military housing.
- (7) The term “Federal financial assistance” means (A) any form of loan, grant, guarantee, insurance, payment, rebate, subsidy, or any other form of direct or indirect Federal assistance (other than general or special revenue sharing or formula grants made to States) approved by any Federal officer or agency; or (B) any loan made or purchased by any bank, savings and loan association, or similar institution subject to regulation by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, or the National Credit Union Administration.

(8) The term “National Institute of Building Sciences” means the institute established by section 1701j-2 of title 12.

(9) The term “residential building” means any structure which is constructed and developed for residential occupancy.

(10) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Energy.

(11) The term “State” includes each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory and possession of the United States.

(12) The term “unit of general purpose local government” means any city, county, town, municipality, or other political subdivision of a State (or any combination thereof), which has a building code or similar authority over a particular geographic area.

(13) The term “Federal building energy standards” means energy consumption objectives to be met without specification of the methods, materials, or equipment to be employed in achieving those objectives, but including statements of the requirements, criteria, and evaluation methods to be used, and any necessary commentary.

(14) The term “voluntary building energy code” means a building energy code developed and updated through a consensus process among interested persons, such as that used by the Council of American Building Officials; the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers; or other appropriate organizations.

(15) The term “CABO” means the Council of American Building Officials.

(16) The term “ASHRAE” means the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

(Pub. L. 94-385, title III, §303, Aug. 14, 1976, 90 Stat. 1145; Pub. L. 95-91, title III, §301(a), title VII, §§703, 707, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 577, 606, 607; Pub. L. 97-35, title X, §1041(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 621; Pub. L. 100-242, title V, §570(c), Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1950; Pub. L. 102-486, title I, §101(a)(1), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2782; Pub. L. 110-140, title IV, §433(b), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1614; Pub. L. 117-58, div. D, title V, §40511(b), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1059.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Par. (1) of this section which read “The term ‘Administrator’ means the Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration; except that after such Administration ceases to exist, such term means any officer of the United States designated by the President for purposes of this subchapter” has been omitted in view of the termination of the Federal Energy Administration and the transfer of its functions and the functions of the Administrator thereof (with certain exceptions) to the Secretary of Energy pursuant to sections 301(a), 703, and 707 of Pub. L. 95-91, which are classified to sections 7151(a), 7293, and 7297 of this title and the fact that the term “Secretary” is defined for the purposes of this subchapter by par. (10) of this section. In this

subchapter, “Secretary of Energy” has been substituted for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 117-58 substituted “Except as otherwise provided, in” for “As used in” in introductory provisions.

2007—Par. (6). Pub. L. 110-140 struck out “which is not legally subject to State or local building codes or similar requirements” after “any Federal agency” and inserted at end “Such term shall include buildings built for the purpose of being leased by a Federal agency, and privatized military housing.”

1992—Pars. (9) to (16). Pub. L. 102-486 redesignated pars. (10) to (13) as (9) to (12), respectively, added pars. (13) to (16), and struck out former par. (9) which read as follows: “The term ‘voluntary performance standards’ means an energy consumption goal or goals to be met without specification of the methods, materials, and processes to be employed in achieving that goal or goals, but including statements of the requirements, criteria and evaluation methods to be used, and any necessary commentary.”

1988—Par. (11). Pub. L. 100-242 substituted “Secretary of Energy” for “Secretary of Housing and Urban Development”.

1981—Par. (9). Pub. L. 97-35 inserted “voluntary” before “performance standards”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-140 effective on the date that is 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-35 effective Aug. 13, 1981, see section 1038 of Pub. L. 97-35, set out as a note under section 6240 of this title.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation and Federal Home Loan Bank Board abolished and functions transferred, see sections 401 to 406 of Pub. L. 101-73, set out as a note under section 1437 of Title 12, Banks and Banking.

WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS

For provisions relating to rates of wages to be paid to laborers and mechanics on projects for construction, alteration, or repair work funded under div. D or an amendment by div. D of Pub. L. 117-58, including authority of Secretary of Labor, see section 18851 of this title.

§ 6833. Updating State building energy efficiency codes

(a) Consideration and determination respecting residential building energy codes

(1) Not later than 2 years after October 24, 1992, each State shall certify to the Secretary that it has reviewed the provisions of its residential building code regarding energy efficiency and made a determination as to whether it is appropriate for such State to revise such residential building code provisions to meet or exceed CABO Model Energy Code, 1992.

(2) The determination referred to in paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) made after public notice and hearing;

(B) in writing;

(C) based upon findings included in such determination and upon the evidence presented at the hearing; and

(D) available to the public.

(3) Each State may, to the extent consistent with otherwise applicable State law, revise the provisions of its residential building code regarding energy efficiency to meet or exceed CABO Model Energy Code, 1992, or may decline to make such revisions.

(4) If a State makes a determination under paragraph (1) that it is not appropriate for such State to revise its residential building code, such State shall submit to the Secretary, in writing, the reasons for such determination, and such statement shall be available to the public.

(5)(A) Whenever CABO Model Energy Code, 1992,¹ (or any successor of such code) is revised, the Secretary shall, not later than 12 months after such revision, determine whether such revision would improve energy efficiency in residential buildings. The Secretary shall publish notice of such determination in the Federal Register.

(B) If the Secretary makes an affirmative determination under subparagraph (A), each State shall, not later than 2 years after the date of the publication of such determination, certify that it has reviewed the provisions of its residential building code regarding energy efficiency and made a determination as to whether it is appropriate for such State to revise such residential building code provisions to meet or exceed the revised code for which the Secretary made such determination.

(C) Paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) shall apply to any determination made under subparagraph (B).

(b) Certification of commercial building energy code updates

(1) Not later than 2 years after October 24, 1992, each State shall certify to the Secretary that it has reviewed and updated the provisions of its commercial building code regarding energy efficiency. Such certification shall include a demonstration that such State’s code provisions meet or exceed the requirements of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-1989.

(2)(A) Whenever the provisions of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-1989 (or any successor standard) regarding energy efficiency in commercial buildings are revised, the Secretary shall, not later than 12 months after the date of such revision, determine whether such revision will improve energy efficiency in commercial buildings. The Secretary shall publish a notice of such determination in the Federal Register.

(B)(i) If the Secretary makes an affirmative determination under subparagraph (A), each State shall, not later than 2 years after the date of the publication of such determination, certify that it has reviewed and updated the provisions of its commercial building code regarding energy efficiency in accordance with the revised standard for which such determination was made. Such certification shall include a demonstration that the provisions of such State’s commercial building code regarding energy efficiency meet or exceed such revised standard.

(ii) If the Secretary makes a determination under subparagraph (A) that such revised stand-

¹ So in original. The comma probably should not appear.