**Summary of the Alabama Energy and Residential Codes (AERC)**

**Energy Codes**

**Energy provisions of the AERC are mandatory for all jurisdictions statewide.**

**Commercial:**

**Residential:**
- 2009 International Residential Code (2009 IRC) with amendments

**On April 17, 2014, the AERC Board determined the 2012 IRC and the 2012 IECC to be not in conflict with the minimum requirements in the code as currently adopted for Alabama.**

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**Amendments to the Commercial Energy Codes include:**

- Requiring Pool Heaters to comply with the ICC Fuel Gas Code or the NFPA 58 as appropriate, and with the NEC.

**Amendments to the energy chapter of the 2009 IRC for residential construction include:**

- Deleting the section for protection of exposed foundation insulation
- Adding a section stating that above code programs must be approved by the board
- Making the certificate stating the insulation R-values, U-factors and SHGC for fenestration voluntary instead of mandatory
- Substituting the Insulation and Fenestration Requirements from the 2009 IECC which are slightly more stringent
- The section for Access Hatches and Doors was amended.
- The section for slab-on-grade floor insulation was deleted.
- The requirement for programmable thermostats was deleted.
- The requirement for R-8 duct insulation was delayed until July 1, 2013
- Duct Leakage testing is not required until January 1, 2014
Residential Building Codes

Amendments to the building codes of the 2009 IRC for residential construction include:

- The length of dryer exhaust ducts was changed to 35 feet.
- The firewall between townhouses was changed to a 2-hr firewall.
- For HVAC duct leakage the following was added: All metal to metal connections shall be mechanically fastened. All duct connections shall be sealed.
- A new section on Duct Leakage was added.
- The section for Access Hatches and Doors was amended.
- A change was made to Piping Support to include equipment as well as appliances.
- Electrical installations in compliance with the 2008 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA 70-2008]) or later editions shall be permitted.

The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes (AERC) Board, through Act 2010-185, was tasked with adopting residential and commercial energy codes, which were mandated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and residential building codes.

The AERC Board designated October 1, 2012 as the implementation date for adoption and enforcement of the Alabama Energy and Residential Code.

The AERC Board has no authority over enforcement of the code, nor can it provide arbitration for any code issues.
HOW DOES THIS AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?

State or County Governments

- CANNOT amend AERC provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
- CANNOT adopt any code after March 2010 which conflicts with the AERC
- CAN amend the non-energy sections of the AERC as local conditions require
- CANNOT amend AERC to mandate residential fire sprinklers

Municipal Governments which do not have a code in effect March 2010

- CANNOT amend AERC provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
- CANNOT adopt any energy or residential code other than the AERC
- CAN amend the non-energy sections of the AERC as local conditions require
- CANNOT amend AERC to mandate residential fire sprinklers

Municipal Governments which do have a code in effect March 2010

- CAN change or amend their existing code, except:
  - CANNOT amend provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
  - CANNOT mandate or restrict installation of fire sprinklers in one- or two-family dwellings, except
    - A municipality that has already enacted an ordinance related to the installation of sprinklers CAN continue to enforce or amend such ordinance