



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **October 4, 2010**
Subject: **Lighting equipment**
References: **2009 International Energy Conservation Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section 404.1 (Lighting equipment) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code in question.

Section 404.1, Lighting Equipment (Prescriptive). A minimum of 50 percent of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficacy lamps.

Question: What makes this section prescriptive? The REScheck program from the Department of Energy does not account for the amount of lighting installed in a home. Is there a scenario where you could install less than 50 percent of the total lighting?

Answer: There was a code change approved to revise the 2009 IECC Section 404.1 to make it mandatory instead of prescriptive. The code change was EC 128-09/10. The reason given was that it was intended to be mandatory all along. You are correct. But for now it is prescriptive and apparently unenforceable if you accept REScheck program although the committee on record states that it was intended to be mandatory all along. No you cannot use less than 50% high-efficacy lamps.

NCC Stance: A minimum of 50 percent high-efficacy lamps are required to be installed regardless of which compliance path is used.

Code Updates: With the adoption of the 2012 IECC, the code now requires that a minimum of 75 percent of lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures to be high-efficacy.

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Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION