

## ASHRAE Technical FAQ

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Question How do I show compliance to [ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2016](#) Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings?

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The Standard requires that general and mandatory provisions always be met. 90.1 compliance documentation forms are available with the [Standard 90.1-2016 User's Manual](#).

The Energy Cost Budget (ECB) method, however, may be used as an alternative to the prescriptive and performance requirements given in the standard for various building systems.

Answer The ECB method is a procedure that enables trade-offs between building systems. For instance, the efficiency of the lighting system might be improved in order to justify fenestration that does not meet the prescriptive envelope requirements. Two paths are provided for compliance: the prescriptive requirements method and the annual energy cost method (systems analysis approach)

Also, the prescriptive building envelope requirements of Section 5 of the Standard provide an alternative approach to prescriptive compliance by allowing trade-offs between building envelope components.

The Standard and User's Manual may be purchased at our website, [www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org) or by calling 1-800-527-4723 in the USA and Canada or 1-404-636-8400 worldwide.

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ASHRAE Pubs [ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2016](#), Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-rise Residential Buildings, plus [ASHRAE BOD approved addenda](#),  
[Standard 90.1-2016 User's Manual](#)

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Topic References Energy-efficiency, commercial, compliance

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|   | Cognizant ASHRAE Committees | Refer to Organization |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | <a href="#">TC 7.6</a>      |                       |
| 2 | SSPC 90.1                   |                       |
| 3 |                             |                       |
| 4 |                             |                       |
| 5 |                             |                       |