

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2010-3 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2010  
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

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**Request from:** Richard Pavlak ([rpavlak@heapy.com](mailto:rpavlak@heapy.com)), Heapy Engineering, 1400 W. Dorothy Lane, Dayton, OH 45458.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010, Section 6.5.1 Economizers, Exception k.1, relating to datacenters in high school facilities.

**Background:** A large high school facility with many buildings and some of them have IT datacenter rooms (with more than 20watts/sf) as defined in 90.1-2010.

**Interpretation:** These datacenters qualify for the economizer exemptions based on Section 6.5.1, Exception k.1, since they are an essential facility as defined by 90.1-2010 Section 3.2 definitions – designated emergency shelter.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** No.

**Comments:** Although the building may meet the definition of an essential facility as a designated emergency shelter, in order for the data center to meet the requirements of exception 6.5.1, Exception k.1, one must demonstrate that 75% of the design load of the data center supports emergency shelters.