

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2010-9 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 45409.

**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.3, relating to data centers.

**Background:** Our firm is designing a new data center for a Fortune 500 software company. NFPA 708 defines Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS) as power systems for facilities or parts of facilities that require continuous operation for the reasons of public safety, emergency management, national security, or business continuity. The data center will operate continuously for reasons of business continuity.

**Interpretation:** Based on Section 6.5.1, Exception k.3, this facility is exempt from the prescriptive requirements for economizers and therefore an economizer is not required to be installed.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** No.

**Comments:** This interpretation does not show evidence that the facility is being classified and constructed per the requirements of NEC Article 708 – Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS).