

**INTERPRETATION IC 189.1-2017-1 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES STANDARD 189.1-2017  
Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings  
Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

**Date Approved:** June 27, 2018

**Request from:** Dennis Stanke, Retired (Trane), West Salem, WI 54669.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2017, Section 7.4.1, relating to the intent and application of that section.

**Background:** Section 7.4.1 “General Comprehensive Prescriptive Requirements” seems unclear in its intent and application. The first sentence says: “When a requirement is provided below, it supersedes the requirement in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.” The word “below” should logically mean that requirements in Section 7.4.1 might apply to only to those sections “below” it, that is, Section 7.4.1.1, 7.4.1.1.1, and 7.4.1.1.2. Furthermore, Section 7.4.1 requirements are to supersede corresponding renewable energy requirements in Standard 90.1, but there are no such requirements in Standard 90.1. So, again, it appears that the first section (7.4.1) was intended to refer to requirements in all of Section 7.4, rather than merely those in Section 7.4.1. Perhaps it should have been numbered 7.4.

The second sentence says: “For all other criteria, the building project shall comply with the requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.” This essentially says that all requirements in Standard 90.1 must be met, unless superseded by corresponding requirements in Standard 189.1. However, since it is part of Section 7.4.1, this sentence, too, might only apply to 7.4.1.1, 7.4.1.1.1, and 7.4.1.1.2. Again, it appears that it was intended to refer to all of Section 7.4, and perhaps should have been numbered 7.4.

**Interpretation:** It is my interpretation that the requirements in Section 7.4.1 apply to all of Section 7.4, rather than merely to Section 7.4.1 and its subsections.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes

**Comments:** It is common for the first subsection of a section to explain the entire section. For instance, Section 7.1 is the scope for all of Section 7, not just Section 7.1. This is further clarified by the heading of Section 7.4.1 which is “General Comprehensive Prescriptive Requirements.”