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in Standard 90.1 must be met, unless superseded by corresponding requirements in Standard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.”