

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2010-16 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2010
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

Date Approved: June 23, 2012

Request from: Michael Mehl (mehlm@jbb.com), Jaros, Baum & Bolles, 80 Pine Street, New York, NY 10005.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to the requirements presented in ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010, Section 9.4.1.1, relating to automatic lighting shutoff controls for mechanical/electrical rooms containing high voltage electrical equipment.

Background: Automatic lighting control shutoff within Mechanical/Electrical spaces/rooms is not specifically exempt as noted within the exception c of Standard 90.1-2010 "...as a space where the requirement for automatic shutoff would endanger the safety of the room or building occupant(s)...".

Although it may be the intent to leave this decision up to the AHJ, a more direct response from ASHRAE 90.1, would aide ALL users of the standard in from initial design through final inspection.

The proposed argument, is that in following the specific requirements of the above section, a condition is created with a highly harmful potential of compromising the safety within Mechanical/Electrical rooms. This condition is the result of occupants being vulnerable to; exposed electrical equipment, potential snags from moving motors/pumps or inadvertent contact with high temperature equipment. These conditions become more acute during periods of equipment service/maintenance. It is also reasonable to assume that during routine service conditions, the general lighting would be the sole source of illumination for each space.

The requirement to use automatic controls could therefore, 'endanger' the occupants, given these potentials .

Lastly, the use of occupancy sensor technology- one common control means used in meeting compliance, is discouraged by controls manufacturers. The reasoning being, that the infrared and ultrasonic technologies and rooms conditions are such, that there is great potential to false read the room environment.

Interpretation: The use of automatic lighting shutoff controls in Mechanical/Electrical rooms due to the potential of creating a hazardous condition, the result of automatic lighting shutoff, would be considered exempt under exemption 'c', of Section 9.4.1.1 of Standard 90.1.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: This interpretation is consistent with the original intent of this measure.