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

Date Approved: October 22, 2011

Request from: Richard Pavlak (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.