ANSI/ASHRAE/ICC/USGBC/IES Addendum b to ANSI/ASHRAE/ICC/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1-2023

Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings

Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

The Complete Technical Content of the International Green Construction Code®

Approved by ASHRAE and the American National Standards Institute on December 31, 2025; by the International Code Council on November 17,2025; by the Illuminating Engineering Society on November 13, 2025; and by the U.S. Green Building Council on December 19, 2025.

This addendum was approved by a Standing Standard Project Committee (SSPC) for which the Standards Committee has established a documented program for regular publication of addenda or revisions, including procedures for timely, documented, consensus action on requests for change to any part of the standard. Instructions for how to submit a change can be found on the ASHRAE® website (www.ashrae.org/continuous-maintenance).

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c. offering constructive criticism for improving the Standard, or
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FOREWORD

As climate change and aridification continue to impact water resources, it is important to consider conservation measures from every possible angle. Turfgrass is one of the highest water-use plants commonly found in landscapes in the built environment. This has been demonstrated by numerous studies that have been conducted since Denver Water pioneered the concept of replacing turfgrass with other plantings in the 1980s. Research in the 1990s and 2000s demonstrated that the concept saved significant water and that savings occur in a variety of environments (as shown by utility studies, the Bureau of Reclamation's National Xeriscape Demonstration Project, and the Alliance for Water Efficiency's Landscape Transformation Study), with the most savings typically found in arid settings where significant irrigation volumes are required to sustain grass.

One highly effective way that jurisdictions can save water with minimal impact is by prohibiting nonfunctional irrigated turfgrass in new or improved development. Nonfunctional turfgrass is broadly decorative turfgrass found along streets; in medians, traffic circles, and parking areas; in the landscaping of businesses; and at vehicular entryways.

As the drought in the western United States has worsened, municipalities, states, and whole regions have started efforts to remove or reduce the amount of nonfunctional turfgrass in existing developments to reduce water demands. Standard 189.1 can complement and inform these efforts by providing communities with an option to stop the spread of new nonfunctional turfgrass within their jurisdiction in a timely manner.

Addendum b creates a jurisdictional option (JO) that prohibits future nonfunctional turfgrass in areas of concern. While it is envisioned that communities in arid areas will be the most interested in this particular JO, it should be noted that water shortages can occur for reasons other than being in a dry environment, such as water system treatment and distribution limitations or source water impairment. As such, this option may be of interest to a significant set of authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs).

Informative Note: In this addendum, changes to the current standard are indicated in the text by underlining (for additions) and ~~strikethrough~~ (for deletions) unless the instructions specifically mention some other means of indicating the changes.

Addendum b to Standard 189.1-2023

Add the following definitions to Section 3.2.

3.2 Definitions

turfgrass, functional: *turfgrass* that is within areas designated on the site plans for any of the following:

a. Recreational use by the public
b. Sports fields
c. Physical education fields and children's play areas
d. Shared recreational areas totaling no greater than 600 ft^2 (60 m^2) per dwelling unit, not to exceed 25,000 ft^2 (2500 m^2), at multifamily properties or at assisted living and rehabilitation centers
e. Driving ranges
f. Burial grounds
g. Vegetated pavers
h. Vegetated roofs
i. Minimum fire apparatus access as required by the *AHJ*
j. Animal exercise and relief

turfgrass, nonfunctional: *turfgrass* that is not *functional turfgrass.*

Add new Section 6.3.1.3 and renumber subsequent sections.

6.3.1.3 [JO] Irrigation of Nonfunctional Turfgrass. Installation of an irrigation system for *nonfunctional turfgrass* shall be prohibited.

Revise Table 4.2 as follows.

Table 4.2 Requirements Determined by the Jurisdiction (Normative in the IgCC)

Section	Section Title, Description and Directives	Jurisdictional Requirement
6.3.1.3	Irrigation of Nonfunctional Turfgrass	☐ No

POLICY STATEMENT DEFINING ASHRAE'S CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ITS ACTIVITIES

ASHRAE is concerned with the impact of its members' activities on both the indoor and outdoor environment. ASHRAE's members will strive to minimize any possible deleterious effect on the indoor and outdoor environment of the systems and components in their responsibility while maximizing the beneficial effects these systems provide, consistent with accepted Standards and the practical state of the art.

ASHRAE's short-range goal is to ensure that the systems and components within its scope do not impact the indoor and outdoor environment to a greater extent than specified by the Standards and Guidelines as established by itself and other responsible bodies.

As an ongoing goal, ASHRAE will, through its Standards Committee and extensive Technical Committee structure, continue to generate up-to-date Standards and Guidelines where appropriate and adopt, recommend, and promote those new and revised Standards developed by other responsible organizations.

Through its *Handbook*, appropriate chapters will contain up-to-date Standards and design considerations as the material is systematically revised.

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Standard 189.1 and the International Green Construction Code

Standard 189.1 serves as the complete technical content of the International Green Construction Code® (IgCC). The IgCC creates a regulatory framework for new and existing buildings, establishing minimum green requirements for buildings and complementing voluntary rating systems. For more information, visit www.iccsafe.org.

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