

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.2-2018-1 OF
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.2-2018
High-Performance Energy Design of Residential Buildings**

Date Approved: September 25, 2023

Request from: Gayathri Vijayakumar, Steven Winter Associates, Inc., 55 North Water Street, Suite 1, Norwalk, CT 06854.

Reference: This request for interpretation refers to ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.2-2018, and Addendum c, Sections 1 and 2, regarding the purpose and scope.

Background: When I submitted a public comment in support of Addendum c, I supported the principle that ASHRAE/IES 90.2 should expand its scope to include all residential buildings, regardless of height. I believe the Foreword of Addendum c was clear in the intent behind the change in title, purpose, and scope. The new title is also a clear change to reflect this intent. However, upon re-reading the Purpose and Scope, the term "residential buildings" is shown in italics, which indicates it is a defined term. The definition of "residential buildings" was not updated in Addendum c and so currently defines those buildings as "buildings three stories above grade or fewer in height whose primary function is nontransient occupancy, including one- and two-family dwellings, multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses), and nontransient multifamily buildings (such as apartment houses, convents, and monasteries)."

Interpretation: Based on the intent as described in the Foreword of Addendum c and the change in Title to delete "low-rise", I interpret the Purpose and Scope to reference all residential buildings, regardless of height and that either the Standard intended to remove the italic font from the term "residential buildings" or intended to revise the definition of "residential buildings" to be consistent with the very clear intent to address residential buildings of all height.

Question: Is this interpretation correct?

Answer: Yes

Comments: This interpretation is correct. It was the common understanding of the SSPC and of the oversight organizations at ASHRAE that approved Addendum c that the intent was *to eliminate the scope limitation* to buildings three stories and fewer and to buildings that were exclusively residential. The intent was to expand the scope to cover all residential portions of buildings as described in Section 2.1.

Failing to update the definition in question was an error, and the SSPC is in process of developing an addendum to correct this error.