

**INTERPRETATION IC 90.1-2010-10 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE/IES STANDARD 90.1-2010  
Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings**

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**Request from:** Richard Pavlak ([rpavlak@heapy.com](mailto:rpavlak@heapy.com)), Heapy Engineering, 1400 W. Dorothy Lane, Dayton, OH 45409.

**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.3, relating to data centers.

**Background:** Our firm is designing a new central command police station for the greater Chicago metro area and it is classified under the NEC Article 708, 2008 Edition for Critical Operation Power Systems based on local AHJ requirements. The police station will have a data center space internally used to support IT services and various communications systems for this and surrounding EMS within the metro area. The data center space meets the definition of a “computer room” as defined in Section 3.2 of Standard 90.1-2010.

The cooling systems that serve the data center space are independent from the remainder of the building HVAC system.

**Interpretation:** Based on Section 6.5.1, Exception k.3, the data center HVAC system is exempt from the prescriptive requirements for economizers and therefore an economizer is not required to be installed on the data center HVAC system.

**Question:** Is this interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Comments:** The data center in the new central command police station has been classified under the NEC Article 708 - Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS) based on the local AHJ. This meets the scope of NEC Article 708 - Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS), as it has been classed by a governmental agency having jurisdiction and is exempt from economizer requirements.