READY TO INSPECT — STANDARD FIELD GUIDE

Energy code (IECC)

International Code Council

The International Energy Conservation Code governs how a building holds the energy it is conditioned with. It covers the insulation and air barrier that make up the thermal envelope, the windows and doors set into it, and the ducts, mechanical systems and lighting that move and use that energy. On site it is a rough-in code as much as a final one, because most of what it governs disappears behind finishes.

What it covers

- The building thermal envelope, including insulation levels and continuity of the air barrier
- Fenestration and doors, where glazing and frames break the envelope
- Duct sealing and insulation where distribution runs through unconditioned space
- Mechanical provisions such as equipment controls and pipe insulation
- Interior and exterior lighting provisions and their controls
- The commissioning and documentation the code expects to accompany the work

What a field inspection looks at

- Insulation and air barrier photographed at rough-in before drywall, with gaps, compression and penetrations shown while they can still be corrected.
- Fenestration documented as installed, capturing the label on the unit rather than a spec sheet from the submittal.
- Duct sealing photographed at the joints in unconditioned space, and insulation shown continuous over the run.
- Mechanical controls and pipe insulation captured in place, not carried over from a prior job's photos.
- Lighting controls demonstrated working on the walk, since the adopted edition and its stringency are the authority having jurisdiction's call.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.