



## 2023 BC Step and Building Codes Course Outline

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	4
BC Energy Step Code Overview and Requirements.....	5
Design, construction & regulatory process.....	5
Meeting the BC Energy Step Code by Design .....	6
Design and Construction Strategies: Overview.....	6
Integrated Design Process.....	7
The Integrated Design Process.....	7
Energy modelling & metrics .....	7
Building Science for the BC Energy Step Code .....	8
Building Science.....	8
Building Envelope Options for the BC Energy Step Code .....	10
Building envelope assemblies .....	10
Building Envelope Options for the BC Energy Step Code.....	11
Insulation (Building envelope & mechanical) .....	13
Windows, skylights & doors .....	14
Windows, skylights & doors – Cont.....	15
Air Barriers for the BC Energy Step Code.....	16
Airtightness .....	16
Air Barriers for the BC Energy Step Code .....	16
Mechanical Systems for the BC Energy Step Code.....	19
Mechanical systems & equipment (heating, cooling, and ventilation) .....	19



Space Heating, Ventilation, and Water Heating .....	19
Mechanical Systems for the BC Energy Step Code .....	19
Electrical systems & equipment .....	21
Building Envelope Quality Assurance and Quality Control .....	22
Supply chain .....	22
Building Envelope Quality Assurance and Quality Control .....	22
BC Energy Step Code Project Management .....	24
BC Energy Step Code Project Management .....	24
Building Envelope Solutions .....	25
Module 2    BUILDING SCIENCE .....	25
Module 4    CONDENSATION CONTROLS IN ASSEMBLIES .....	26
Module 5    RAIN PENETRATION CONTROL FOR WALL ASSEMBLIES	29
Module 6    SHEATHING, SHEATHING MEMBRANES, CLADDINGS, SEALANTS FLASHINGS	30
Module 7    WINDOWS & DOORS .....	32
Module 8    ROOFS, DECKS, WALKWAYS AND BALCONIES .....	34
Module 9    NEW CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING ENVELOPE —	35
ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALITY ASSURANCE .....	35
Module 11    REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS	37
Building Envelope - manual contents .....	39
<b>MODULE D</b> Understand Building Science .....	39
MODULE E    Understand Applied Building Science .....	40

MODULE F	Describe walls .....	41
MODULE G	Understand Relevant Regulatory	
Requirements	41	
MODULE J	Install Windows and Doors .....	41
<b>MODULE L</b>	<b>Apply Self-adhered Membranes</b> .....	<b>42</b>
MODULE M	Install Strapping .....	42
MODULE N	Apply Sealants .....	42

# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Introduction

**2023 BC Step and Building Codes** is a 16 hour course delivered over two consecutive days.

**(This Course Does Not Qualify For Equivalent Training for “Step Code Status”.)**

This course is designed to provide content similar to **BC Energy Step Code Modules** of mandatory training for builders as required by BC Housing (as of Oct 2022).

Topics include:

**BC Energy Step Code Overview and Requirements**

**Meeting the BC Energy Step Code by Design**

**Building Science for the BC Energy Step Code**

**Building Envelope Options for the BC Energy Step Code**

**Air Barriers for the BC Energy Step Code**

**Mechanical Systems for the BC Energy Step Code**

**Building Envelope Quality Assurance and Quality Control**

**BC Energy Step Code Project Management**

Each participant at training session receives a set of 2 Manuals.

Manuals are for reference and illustrations for construction methods after completion of training.

Content of the manuals are referenced and section’s reviewed during training.

Titles and content of Manuals as described in:

**Building Envelope Solutions** Pgs. 25-38

**Building Envelope** Pgs. 39 - 42

Introduction to the training, first provides background information, including the evolution of energy efficiency codes and related programs that have had a large impact on the overall energy consumption of homes.

It then defines what high-performance housing is, and what the major features and benefits are.

This section also introduces the business case for such housing.

Energy-Efficiency Requirements Described in Building Codes and Energy-Related Programs

Definition, Features, and Benefits of High-Performance Housing

Business Case



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### BC Energy Step Code Overview and Requirements

This module sets the groundwork for the overall design and compliance process and shares the motivation behind this evolution towards performance-based code. It is not intended to cover design principles for the BCESC since it is covered in Module 2.

Recognize the importance of building housing in BC that responds to climate change through energy efficiency, durability, and comfort, for a diverse range of occupants.

Present evidence projected climate conditions indicate a need for houses with improved home energy efficiency, durability, and occupant comfort.

Compare at a high level the energy use, durability, occupant comfort characteristics, and potential broader climate impacts of “business-as-usual” houses with those of a Step 3 or higher houses, including for a diverse range of Part 9 housing formats and users.

#### Design, construction & regulatory process

Overview, outlines the main strategies as well as performance targets that can be utilized in the design and construction of high-performance housing.

Their impacts on whole-house energy consumption are illustrated, and the considerations for cost optimization during the design and construction process are highlighted.

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Basic understanding of the BC Energy Step Code
- Principles of performance- based codes
- Schedules for testing and demonstration of compliance

#### Step 4, 5

- improved integration of project team



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Meeting the BC Energy Step Code by Design

This module provides an overview of how architectural and mechanical design choices can have a significant impact on certain building performance parameters, which can either help or hinder compliance as well as impact overall cost.

- **Explain to team members and clients the basic considerations for designing and building including considerations for future climate readiness, market expectations, potential cost implications, diverse building types, and future code readiness.**
- Understand how house size/ratio/orientation and window size/orientation can impact home energy performance and construction cost, including for a diverse range of Part 9 housing types.
- Compare mechanical systems that may become more common with Step 3 houses and beyond including their impact on energy use, and the home's characteristics that impact mechanical design
- **Assess qualitatively a building's likelihood of meeting various performance requirements of the BC Energy Step Code based on its design elements.**
- Identify key detailing and building form elements that can impact airtightness, thermal
- Performance, and mechanical system installation.

### Design and Construction Strategies: Overview

Passive Heating, Lighting, and Cooling

Building Envelopes

Mechanical Ventilation

Electrical Energy Loads

Water-Heating Loads

Heating Systems

Solar Electric (Photovoltaic) and Solar Thermal Collectors

Whole-House Energy Consumption

Sustainable Materials and Products

Water Conservation

Storm-Water Management

Cost-Effectiveness Considerations



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Integrated Design Process

- The Integrated Design Process, covers a step-by-step approach, utilizing building-as-a-system principles, to designing homes with optimized energy performance and long-term durability.
- It outlines how best practices can be used at the schematic design stage, which is followed by computer simulation and a design charrette process, to develop and optimize solutions.

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Schedules for testing and demonstration of compliance

#### Step 4, 5

- improved integration of project team

### The Integrated Design Process

- Program Development
  - Setting Energy and Environmental Performance Goals
  - Building as a System.
- Site Analysis
- Schematic Design
  - Building Orientation and Form
  - Rules of Thumb for Schematic Design Stage
- Preliminary Energy Analysis
- Design Charrette
- Design Development
  - Determining Insulation and Airtightness Levels
  - Calculating Total Annual Electrical Energy Load
  - Estimating Photovoltaic Array Size

### Energy modelling & metrics

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Modelling tool outputs and how to integrate them into the design process
- Thermal energy demand intensity (TEDI), energy use intensity (EUI), mechanical energy intensity and power transfer limit (PTL) standards

#### Step 4, 5

- Advanced modelling tools



## Building Science for the BC Energy Step Code

### Building Science

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Understanding of the “envelope first” building approach
- Impacts of building form and massing on energy performance

#### Step 4, 5

- Application of building science to determine insulation, glazing and airtightness requirements
- Reducing overall loads and simplified equipment
- Apply building science principles to help in the selection of durable building components, assemblies, and construction approaches in the diverse British Columbia climate and market.

This module builds on basic building science principles and applies them to the evolving/emerging enclosure design and construction practices required to meet the “envelope first” approach. This is not intended as a building science fundamentals course, but must still set the groundwork for the training completed in Module 4.

- Identify the key characteristics of typical building assemblies that impact the energy performance of the building.
- List the key enclosure selection criteria that affect the building construction cost and schedule.
- Use building science principles to guide the evolution of the design and construction of building enclosures with increased R- value in the “envelope first” approach, accounting for BC’s five climate zones and diverse building types and occupancies.
- Assess and mitigate the potential impacts of solar heat gain on occupant comfort, including a basic understanding of the solar heat gain coefficient, low-e coatings, window operability, and influence of mechanical systems.
- Differentiate between enclosure elements and construction practices for achieving airtightness and those intended for vapour control.
- **Use industry resources to determine appropriate enclosure components and assemblies, mechanical components, and construction approaches that can be used to meet the current and future requirements of the BCESC and achieve best practices.**





# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

- Find typical ranges of assembly R-values associated with wood- frame, below-grade concrete and wood-frame roof assemblies.
- Be mindful of prescriptive code items that still apply to building enclosures even if they are used as part of performance-based compliance and of design approaches that may require design professional involvement/sign-off during assembly selection.
- Consider the five key design and construction criteria of cost efficiency, constructability, air- tightness, moisture durability, and sustainability in selecting an appropriate enclosure assembly
- Assess the benefits of an exterior-insulated assembly compared to an interior-insulated assembly in terms of building science principle
- **Evaluate a window product based on key characteristics including NAFs rating, energy, durability, design option**

Building Science

Moisture and Climate

Wind Exposure

Sunlight

Humidity

Relative Humidity

Everyday Example of Relative Humidity

Water Movement – Diffusion<sup>1</sup>

Water Vapour Movement – Diffusion

Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage

Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage and Vapour Diffusion

Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage

Capillary Suction

Water Movement – Capillary Suction

Preventing Water Damage – the 4 Ds

Measuring Moisture

Moisture Meters

Common Questions about Building Durability

Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types:

Older Buildings

Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types: Mid 1980s to 1998

Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types: Current Practice Part A

Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types: Current Practice Part B



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Options for the BC Energy Step Code

#### Building envelope assemblies

Building Envelopes, covers the technical principles of energy-efficient and durable building envelopes including thermal insulation, considerations for air barriers and vapour barriers, and steps towards ensuring long-term durability.

It then includes a series of examples of highly energy-efficient and durable building assemblies for foundations, exterior above-grade walls, roofs, and exposed floors. It also covers the characteristics and installation of high-performance windows, doors, and skylights.

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- o Elements of an effective building envelope
- o Envelope quality control and assurance

#### Step 4, 5

- o Minimizing thermal bridging
- o Advanced framing, alternative envelope solutions (SIPs, box truss walls, etc.)

#### Building Envelopes

- Thermal Insulation
  - o Materials
  - o Strategies
  - o The Law of Diminishing Returns
- Air Barriers
  - o Materials
  - o Performance
  - o Quality Assurance
  - o Indoor Air Quality
- Vapour Barriers
- Long-Term Durability of Highly Insulated Assemblies
  - o Wetting and Drying Mechanisms
  - o Measures to Improve Durability
  - o Detailing of Wall Penetration
- Foundations
  - o Durability Considerations
  - o Conditioned Crawl Space
  - o Thermal Insulation and Airtightness
- Exterior Above-Grade Walls
  - o Cavity Insulation
  - o Exterior Insulation
  - o Combined Interior and Exterior Insulation
  - o Other Considerations in Wall Design



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

- Roof Assemblies
  - o Pitched-Roof Attic Assemblies
  - o Open or Cathedral Ceilings
- Exposed Floors
- Windows, Glass Doors, and Skylights
  - o Windows
  - o Glass Doors
  - o Skylights
- Exterior Doors

## Building Envelope Options for the BC Energy Step Code

This module introduces builders to the different options they have to achieve higher performance levels when it comes to the building assemblies and their interfaces.

- **Compare and contrast the performance, cost, constructability, compatibility, and future-readiness parameters at play in the design and construction of modern enclosure assemblies that are used in buildings meeting the BC Energy Step Code.**
- Identify exterior wall assembly configurations that optimize cost, durability, thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, and buildability in all climate zones in BC.
- Develop basic strategies for constructing wall assemblies that use exterior insulation that are durable and buildable.
- Manage key design and construction concerns for below-grade concrete assemblies with increased thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, while using moisture control best practices.
- Manage key design and construction concerns for roof assemblies with increased thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, and airtightness, while using moisture control and resilience best practices.
- Understand the typical correct sequence of exterior wall membrane installation that includes for airtightness and use of exterior insulation, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.
- Understand the typical correct sequence of exterior insulation installation, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.
- Understand the correct overall sequence of typical airtightness and insulation detailing, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.
- Align cost and construction priorities across the project team and with the owner/client, including for a diverse group of trades/subcontractors with a varying understanding of enclosure assemblies.
- **Plan the construction of enclosure assemblies, including aligning a diverse range of trades/**



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

**subcontractors, managing supply chains, sequencing site work, and ensuring correct installation practices are used.**

- List key planning considerations that contribute to the successful construction of a cost-effective building enclosure across a range of diverse housing types.
- Identify key building specification and drawing information that assist in enclosure assembly selection and construction, including key product information, detailing accessories, assembly thickness constraints, and window specifications.
- Determine core competencies needed by team members in the enclosure construction process and implement ways to train those considering diverse backgrounds and learning styles, especially indigenous persons and those from equity seeking groups.
- Summarize the factors that can lead to improper installation and poor quality control in building enclosure construction, and how they can be addressed during design and early stage construction.



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Insulation (Building envelope & mechanical)

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Envelope insulation requirements (defined by model, climate zone, etc.)
- Temperature bearing systems required for insulation (heating and cooling)

#### Step 4, 5

- Thermal bridge-free design, consideration of slab edges, balconies, etc.
  - Heavier and fatter walls, smaller windows, passive design, and shading
- 
- Thermal Insulation
    - Materials
    - Strategies
    - The Law of Diminishing Returns

**Compare and contrast the performance, cost, constructability, compatibility, and future-readiness parameters at play in the design and construction of modern enclosure assemblies that are used in buildings meeting the BC Energy Step Code.**

- Identify exterior wall assembly configurations that optimize cost, durability, thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, and buildability in all climate zones in BC.
- Develop basic strategies for constructing wall assemblies that use exterior insulation that are durable and buildable.
- Manage key design and construction concerns for below-grade concrete assemblies with increased thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, while using moisture control best practices.
- Manage key design and construction concerns for roof assemblies with increased thermal performance including reduced thermal bridging, and airtightness, while using moisture control and resilience best practices.
- Understand the typical correct sequence of exterior wall membrane installation that includes for airtightness and use of exterior insulation, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.
- Understand the typical correct sequence of exterior insulation installation, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.
- Understand the correct overall sequence of typical airtightness and insulation detailing, and identify the parties in charge of each step in this sequence.



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Windows, skylights & doors

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Role of fenestration in heat loss calculations
- Labels, standards, shading coefficients, and U-values

#### Step 4, 5

- Thermal bridge-free installation strategies
- Smaller and heavier windows, passive design, and shading
- Windows, Glass Doors, and Skylights
  - Windows
  - Glass Doors
  - Skylights

#### Exterior Doors

#### **Evaluate a window product based on key characteristics including NAFs rating, energy, durability, design option**

- Assess and mitigate the potential impacts of solar heat gain on occupant comfort, including a basic understanding of the solar heat gain coefficient, low-e coatings, window operability, and influence of mechanical systems.
- Understand how house size/ratio/orientation and window size/orientation can impact home energy performance and construction cost, including for a diverse range of Part 9 housing types.

#### Understand Types of Window

Describe Types of Windows by Frame Attachment Detail

Types of Windows in Terms of Wall Type

Describe Alternate Types of Windows in Terms of Frame Materials

Describe Alternate Types of Doors Prepare Wall for Window and Door Installation

Install Windows and Doors in Rough Openings

Install Sill and Jamb Flashing Papers

Install Windows and Doors for Rainscreen and Non-rainscreen Windows



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Windows, skylights & doors – Cont.

#### **WINDOWS**

Water Leakage Through and Around Windows  
 Window Terminology  
 Fixed Window  
 Operable Windows  
 Casement  
 Awning  
 Top Hung or Bottom Hung or Hopper  
 Double or Single Hung  
 Horizontal Slider  
 Tilt and Turn  
 Punched Window  
 Strip Windows  
 Composite Windows  
 Water Penetration through Windows  
 Resisting Water Penetration in Windows  
 Condensation  
 Water and Glazed Units  
 Air Barrier  
 Vapour Barrier  
 Factors Affecting Durability of Seals  
 Water Penetration Control Systems in Windows  
 Face Sealed Windows  
 Concealed Barrier Windows  
 Rainscreen Windows  
**WINDOW STANDARDS**  
 Window Standards Extracted from the BCBC  
 A-9.7.2.1 (1) Window Standard

#### **HOW IS THE CAN/CSA -A440-1-98 STANDARD APPLIED?**

Lab Tests versus Field Tests  
 Test Methods  
 Features that Prevent Rain Penetration  
 Sealing between the Glazing and Window Frame  
 Water Penetration Between Opening Sash and Window Frame  
 Leakage Through Window Frames  
 Aluminum Windows  
 Wood Windows  
 Vinyl Windows  
 Subsill Flashings  
 Window Selection  
 Window Installation  
 Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier Window Installation Sequence  
 ADA Window Installation Sequence  
 HWAB Window Installation Sequence  
 EABA Window Installation Sequence  
 Window Maintenance

#### **DOORS**

Door Installation  
 Air Sealing Door Frame to Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier Installation Sequence  
 Air Sealing Door Frame to Air Barrier (ADA) Installation Sequence  
 Exterior View Door Frame Installation Sequence (ADA and Polyethylene Air Barrier)  
 House Wrap Air Barrier Door Installation Sequence  
 Exterior Air Barrier Approach Installation Sequence



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Air Barriers for the BC Energy Step Code

#### Airtightness

##### Step 1, 2, 3

- Design and construction of an airtight building envelope to achieve 3.5 ACH
- Conducting blower door testing
- Detection and control of air leakages and managing envelope penetrations

##### Step 4, 5

- How to design and build an airtight envelope to achieve <1.5 ACH
- Air Barriers
  - Materials
  - Performance
  - Quality Assurance
  - Indoor Air Quality

### Air Barriers for the BC Energy Step Code

This module discusses the different options that builders have when selecting an air barrier approach, and the important planning steps associated with a successful air barrier.

- **Select an appropriate air barrier approach for a given roof, wall, floor, and party- wall assembly based on performance, cost- effectiveness, and constructability, bearing in mind current and future BCESC requirements.**
- Appreciate the importance of the building air barrier as a way of significantly improving energy efficiency with minimal construction cost implications.
- Understand how airtightness impacts energy performance from code minimum to current practices to best practice.
- Describe the four attributes of a correctly installed building air barrier: air impermeability, durability, continuity, and stiffness.
- Compare the design and construction sequence considerations of typical interior and exterior air barrier systems, including key details for implementing them successfully.
- Assess cost trade-offs of different air barrier approaches including materials, installation techniques, sequencing, and effectiveness.
- **Apply knowledge of the correct design and installation practices for a given air barrier**





# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### **approach to properly manage the planning, installation, and testing of the building's complete air barrier.**

- List the key factors that contribute to the successful installation of a complete air barrier system.
- Manage the key wood-frame construction practices that can interfere with achieving a successful air barrier, including coordination and education for all trades interacting with the enclosure.
- Coordinate qualitative and quantitative testing at the appropriate times, and use results to track quality control of the air barrier.

### **VAPOUR BARRIERS AND AIR BARRIERS**

#### **CONDENSATION**

#### **AIR BARRIERS**

#### **AIR BARRIERS: POLYETHYLENE AIR/VAPOUR BARRIER**

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Exterior Wall/Slab

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Wall Hood.

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Window Installation

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Electrical Outlets

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Rim Joist

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Direct Vent Glass Flue

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Plumbing Wall Penetration

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Door

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Exterior Hood at Rim Joist

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Partition Wall at Ceiling

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Plumbing Stack Penetration

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Conventional Recessed Light

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Corridor Pressurization Fan

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Ceiling Electrical Box.

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Bathroom Fan

#### **AIRTIGHT DRYWALL AIR BARRIER (ADA)**

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Exterior Wall/Slab

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Exterior Hood

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Window

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Electrical Outlet Boxes

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Rim Joist



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Direct Vent Flue

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Wall Plumbing Penetration

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Door

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Partition Wall at Ceiling Beneath Attic

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Partition Wall at Ceiling

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Recessed Light

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Corridor Pressurization Fan

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Bathroom Fan

### **AIR BARRIERS: HOUSE WRAP AIR BARRIER**

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Wall/Slab

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Hood

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Window

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Door

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Rim Joist

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Direct Vent Flue

House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Wall Ceiling Connection

### **AIR BARRIERS: EXTERIOR AIR BARRIER APPROACH**

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Slab/Wall Connection

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Exterior Hood

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Window

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Intermediate Floor Joist

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Door

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Direct Vent Flue

Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Wall/Ceiling Connection

### **AIR TIGHTNESS TESTING**



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Mechanical Systems for the BC Energy Step Code

#### Mechanical systems & equipment (heating, cooling, and ventilation)

Space Heating, Ventilation, and Water Heating, provides an overview of space heating, mechanical ventilation, and domestic hot water systems that are best for use in high-performance housing.

#### Step 1, 2, 3

- Metering, monitoring and controls
- Mechanical ventilation in homes, MURBs and ICIs
- Heat pumps, heat recovery/recycling, low temperature hydronic solutions, solar, etc.
- Commissioning

#### Step 4, 5

- Simple systems (design, layout, and equipment) to minimize run lengths
- Renewable energy solutions
- Whole building commissioning, M&V
- Basic building science and the importance of air barrier integrity

#### Space Heating, Ventilation, and Water Heating

- General Considerations
- Heating Systems
- Natural-Gas Forced-Air Heating
  - Natural-Gas Hydronic Heating
  - Combined Heat and Power
  - Electric Baseboards
  - Heat Pumps
- Ventilation Systems
- Domestic Water-Heating Systems
  - Gas
  - Electric
  - Solar
  - Drain-Water Heat-Recovery Systems

#### Mechanical Systems for the BC Energy Step Code

This module discusses correct design and construction steps for heating, cooling and ventilation systems used in BCESC homes.



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Use knowledge of the basic characteristics of correctly designed and installed code compliant mechanical systems used in BCESC homes when communicating with mechanical designers and mechanical trades.

- Compare strategies for improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions of mechanical systems both in the overall building design and in system selection, including for up-front and lifetime costing.
  - Set expectations for deliverables from the energy modeller and mechanical contractor regarding right-sizing, design and installation, quality assurance, and verification/commissioning.
  - Assess basic mechanical installations for overall quality and communicate with designers/installers on areas of concern.
  - Evaluate basic code-compliant mechanical systems design and installation approaches and use industry resources to guide selection of appropriate heating/cooling/ventilation systems likely to be used in homes complying with Step 3 and beyond.
  - Compare cost implications of the installation and operation of typical mechanical systems as part of selection and evaluation process, including maintenance and lifecycle implications.
  - Manage the sequencing and coordination of the mechanical system installation and verification on site to account for the BCESC compliance process including for airtightness testing, inspections, commissioning, and compliance reports.
  - Assess modern and emerging mechanical systems for suitability and integration with homes built to BCESC Step 3 and beyond, especially relating to increased airtightness, the need for responsive systems, and future GHGI considerations.
  - Consider throughout design and construction the diverse range of occupants such as Indigenous persons, elderly, and those from equity seeking groups, who will be using the mechanical system to control interior conditions to meet their needs.
- Ventilation System Options
  - Exhaust Ventilation Systems
  - Basic Exhaust Ventilation System
  - Central Exhaust Ventilation System
  - Supply Ventilation System
  - Balance Ventilation Systems
  - Basic Balanced Ventilation System
  - Recirculating Central Ventilation System
  - Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems
  - Energy Recovery Ventilation Systems
  - Ventilation System Construction
  - Minimum Requirements for a Distributed Ventilation System



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### **Electrical systems & equipment**

Photovoltaic Systems, provides a discussion of design considerations and information related to the use of photovoltaic (PV) systems in high-performance housing.

It also describes the basic requirements for making a project PV ready for the future.

#### **Step 1, 2, 3**

Ventilation equipment, lighting, appliances, electric HVAC equipment (fans, pumps, etc.)

Metering / submetering, monitoring and controls

Building commissioning

#### **Step 4, 5**

Renewable energy solutions

Whole building commissioning, M&V

Basic building science and the importance of air barrier integrity

### **Photovoltaic Systems**

Typical Conversion Efficiencies

Grid-Connected Systems

Building-Integrated Systems

Making a Project PV Ready



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Quality Assurance and Quality Control

#### Supply chain

##### Step 1, 2, 3

Sourcing new/unfamiliar products and services required for compliance  
(energy model, blower door, commissioning, etc.)

##### Step 4, 5

New forms of procurement to assure accountability

New forms of delivery methods that foster collaboration, use of digital tools and prefabrication

New / certified products and materials, labels, and standards

#### **Building Envelope Quality Assurance and Quality Control**

This module focuses firstly on building envelope details that are more commonly associated with performance issues, and secondly on the quality assurance and control of the air barrier, and on diagnosis and repair of the air barrier with the assistance of air tightness testing

**Use basic quality assurance and quality control tools like mockups and airtightness testing to achieve airtight durable enclosures.**

Plan the correct sequencing for typical detail installation relating primarily to air barrier and insulation, without compromising other control functions and durability.

Identify key building enclosure QA/QC items from construction documents and plan for ways to address them including modifying details and using mockups.

Understand the scheduling, preparation, and testing process for airtightness testing at mid- construction and for final compliance, for both detached and attached homes.

Assess the suitability of qualitative and quantitative testing techniques in the construction process for BCESC homes, including challenges with diverse housing types.

**Coordinate QA/QC measures for enclosure detailing and airtightness control, including enlisting the correct parties responsible and tracking items from design through to completion.**



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Use checklists to manage QA/QC of key enclosure items related to BCESC compliance steps from design to completion, including avoiding costly errors and need for repairs through effective quality assurance.

Effectively communicate to trades the key QA/QC items related to BCESC compliance, and identify and mitigate potential conflict and bias that might arise between team members especially relating to differing cultural backgrounds.

Identify desirable qualifications and responsibilities for an onsite QA/QC supervisor to support all aspects of BCESC compliance, including insulation, airtightness, and mechanical systems.

Enlist appropriate personnel, tools, and techniques for repairing incomplete enclosure items and improving building airtightness

Integrate key quality assurance and quality control language relating to BCESC compliance into contract agreements with designers and trades, including performance-based contractual obligations.



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### BC Energy Step Code Project Management

#### BC Energy Step Code Project Management

This module presents ways in which the builder can manage the project, in cooperation with the rest of the project team and the trades, to achieve the expected performance levels.

**Recognize the design and construction factors contributing to the success or failure of a building project in meeting its goals such as meeting BCESC requirements, staying on budget and on schedule, and maintaining working relationships with team members and clients.**

**Integrate broad project management and QA/QC tools that help lower the risk of failing to meet project goals**

Role of the Building Professional

Role of the General Contractor

Quality Assurance Protocols for Construction

#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

What is Quality Assurance? What is Quality? Why Quality?

Develop a Quality Assurance Program Structure, Training , Manual of Instructions

#### **PROJECT DESIGN**

Setting up the Project Team, Establishing Project Timelines, Identify Design Parameters, Establishing Materials of Construction

#### **PROJECT CONSTRUCTION**

Construction Meeting Format, Successful Control Methods, Construction Materials Control

Consultant Reviews, Quality Assurance Review, Communication Techniques, Warranty Obligations

Project Facts Sheet and Checklists, End of Construction.

Maintenance, General Notes.

Commissioning Meeting





# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 2 BUILDING SCIENCE

##### Table of Contents

Building Science .....	1
Moisture and Climate .....	2
Wind Exposure .....	3
Sunlight .....	4
Humidity.....	8
Relative Humidity .....	9
Everyday Example of Relative Humidity .....	10
Water Movement – Diffusion.....	11
Water Vapour Movement – Diffusion .....	12
Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage.....	13
Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage and Vapour Diffusion.....	14
Water Vapour Movement – Air Leakage.....	15
Capillary Suction .....	16
Water Movement – Capillary Suction.....	17
Preventing Water Damage – the 4 Ds .....	18
Measuring Moisture.....	22
Moisture Meters .....	24
Common Questions about Building Durability.....	26
Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types:	
Older Buildings.....	30
Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types:	
Mid 1980s to 1998.....	31
Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types:	
Current Practice Part A .....	32
Building Science Reasons for the Performance of Building Types:	



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Current Practice Part B.....

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 4            CONDENSATION CONTROLS IN ASSEMBLIES

**VAPOUR BARRIERS AND AIR BARRIERS..... 1**

**CONDENSATION..... 2**

**AIR BARRIERS..... 4**

**AIR BARRIERS: POLYETHYLENE AIR/VAPOUR BARRIER..... 6**

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Exterior Wall/Slab..... 8

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier:Wall Hood..... 9

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier:Window Installation..... 13

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Electrical Outlets..... 18

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Rim Joist..... 19

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Direct Vent Glass Flue..... 23

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Plumbing Wall Penetration ..... 25

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Door ..... 28

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Exterior Hood at Rim Joist ..... 29

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Partition Wall at Ceiling ..... 31

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Plumbing Stack Penetration..... 33

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Conventional Recessed Light ..... 34

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Corridor Pressurization Fan ..... 35

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Ceiling Electrical Box..... 37

Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier: Bathroom Fan..... 38

**AIRTIGHT DRYWALL AIR BARRIER (ADA) ..... 39**

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Exterior Wall/Slab..... 40

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Exterior Hood ..... 41

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA):Window..... 46

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Electrical Outlet Boxes ..... 51

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Rim Joist..... 52



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Direct Vent Flue .....	53
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA):Wall Plumbing Penetration .....	57
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Door .....	60
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Partition Wall at Ceiling Beneath Attic .....	61
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Partition Wall at Ceiling .....	62
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Recessed Light .....	64
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Corridor Pressurization Fan .....	66
Airtight Drywall Air Barrier (ADA): Bathroom Fan .....	68
<b>AIR BARRIERS: HOUSE WRAP AIR BARRIER .....</b>	<b>69</b>
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Wall/Slab .....	70
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Hood .....	72
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB):Window .....	76
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Exterior Door .....	79
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Rim Joist .....	83
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB): Direct Vent Flue .....	85
House Wrap Air Barrier (HWAB):Wall Ceiling Connection .....	90
<b>AIR BARRIERS: EXTERIOR AIR BARRIER APPROACH .....</b>	<b>92</b>
Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Slab/Wall Connection .....	93
Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Exterior Hood .....	95
Exterior Air Barrier Approach:Window .....	98
Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Intermediate Floor Joist .....	103
Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Door .....	105
Exterior Air Barrier Approach: Direct Vent Flue .....	111
Exterior Air Barrier Approach:Wall/Ceiling Connection .....	114
<b>AIR TIGHTNESS TESTING .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>VENTILATION .....</b>	<b>122</b>
Ventilation System Options .....	123
Exhaust Ventilation Systems .....	124
Basic Exhaust Ventilation System .....	124
Central Exhaust Ventilation System .....	125
Supply Ventilation System .....	128



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Balance Ventilation Systems .....	128
Basic Balanced Ventilation System .....	128
Recirculating Central Ventilation System .....	130
Heat Recovery Ventilation Systems .....	130
Energy Recovery Ventilation Systems .....	133
Ventilation System Construction .....	135
Minimum Requirements for a Distributed Ventilation System .....	135



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 5 RAIN PENETRATION CONTROL FOR WALL ASSEMBLIES

##### Table of Contents

<b>RAINWATER EXPOSURE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CONDITIONS FOR WATER PENETRATION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WATER PENETRATION CONTROL THEORY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Deflection.....	2
Sealing .....	2
Neutralizing the Driving Forces.....	4
Drying .....	8
Durable Materials.....	9
The 4 Ds .....	9
<b>RAIN PENETRATION CONTROL STRATEGIES.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Face Seal .....	11
Concealed Barrier.....	12
Rainscreen.....	13
Pressure Moderated Rainscreen.....	14
<b>WATER PENETRATION AND TYPICAL CLADDINGS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>WATER VAPOUR DRIVE FROM THE EXTERIOR.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
Windows .....	20
Deck at Wall .....	23
Wall at Outside of Building.....	25
Exterior Stairwell .....	28
Saddle Connection .....	32
Exterior Railing .....	36
Exterior Hood.....	38
Exterior Electrical Box .....	40
Exterior Pipe Penetration.....	42



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 6 SHEATHING, SHEATHING MEMBRANES, CLADDINGS, SEALANTS AND FLASHINGS

##### Table of Contents

<b>SHEATHINGS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Plywood .....	1
Oriented Strand Board (OSB) .....	1
Solid Wood Sheathing .....	1
Asphalt Impregnated Fibreboard Sheathing.....	1
Insulated Sheathing.....	2
<b>SHEATHING MEMBRANES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Breather Type Sheathing Membranes.....	3
Potential Problems with Breather Type Sheathing Membranes.....	3
Waterproof Sheathing Membranes.....	5
Potential Problems with Waterproof Sheathing Membranes .....	5
<b>CLADDINGS.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Wood and Hardboard .....	7
Vinyl .....	8
Stucco.....	10
Stucco Wall Components and Materials .....	10
Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS).....	11
Masonry Veneer.....	13
Masonry Veneer Components and Materials.....	13
Fibre Cement Boards.....	17
<b>FLASHINGS.....</b>	<b>17</b>
Types of Flashings .....	22
Base Flashing .....	22



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Valley Flashings .....	23
Wall Roof Junctions .....	24
Cross Cavity Wall Flashing.....	26
Cap Flashing.....	27
Cap Flashings and Guard Rails.....	28
Drip Flashing.....	29
Flashing Materials .....	29
Metal Flashing .....	29
Polyvinyl Chloride (Thermoplastic Flashing) .....	31
EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) (Thermosetting) Flashings.....	31
Bituminous and Modified Bituminous Membranes .....	31
End Dams.....	32
<b>FLASHING MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION.....</b>	<b>35</b>
Base Flashings.....	35
Modified Bituminous Roll Roofing.....	35
Elastomeric Roofing Materials .....	36
Valley Flashings .....	37
Counter Flashings and Cap Flashings .....	37
Wall Flashings.....	39
Eavestroughs and Rain Water Leaders.....	40
<b>SEALANTS.....</b>	<b>41</b>
Low Movement Sealants.....	41
Medium Movement Sealants.....	41
High Movement Sealants.....	41
Sealant Applications.....	42
Proper Joint Design .....	



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 7            WINDOWS & DOORS

##### Table of Contents

<b>WINDOWS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Water Leakage Through and Around Windows .....	1
Window Terminology .....	3
Fixed Window.....	6
Operable Windows .....	6
Casement.....	6
Awning .....	7
Top Hung or Bottom Hung or Hopper.....	7
Double or Single Hung.....	8
Horizontal Slider.....	8
Tilt and Turn.....	9
Punched Window.....	9
Strip Windows.....	9
Composite Windows.....	10
Water Penetration Through Windows .....	10
Resisting Water Penetration in Windows.....	10
Condensation.....	13
Water and Glazed Units .....	13
Air Barrier.....	13
Vapour Barrier.....	13
Factors Affecting Durability of Seals.....	13
Water Penetration Control Systems in Windows .....	13
Face Sealed Windows .....	13
Concealed Barrier Windows .....	14
Rainscreen Windows.....	17
<b>WINDOW STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>18</b>





# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Window Standards Extracted from the BCBC.....	21
A-9.7.2.1 (1) Window Standard.....	21
<b>HOW IS THE CAN/CSA -A440-1-98 STANDARD APPLIED? .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Lab Tests Versus Field Tests.....	22
Test Methods .....	23
Features that Prevent Rain Penetration.....	28
Sealing Between the Glazing and Window Frame .....	30
Water Penetration Between Opening Sash and Window Frame .....	30
Leakage Through Window Frames .....	33
Aluminum Windows.....	33
Wood Windows.....	33
Vinyl Windows .....	33
Subsill Flashings .....	33
Window Selection .....	35
Window Installation.....	35
Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier Window Installation Sequence.....	37
ADA Window Installation Sequence .....	42
HWAB Window Installation Sequence.....	47
EABA Window Installation Sequence .....	51
Window Maintenance.....	56
<b>DOORS.....</b>	<b>56</b>
Door Installation .....	57
Air Sealing Door Frame to Polyethylene Air/Vapour Barrier Installation Sequence .....	57
Air Sealing Door Frame to Air Barrier (ADA) Installation Sequence .....	58
Exterior View Door Frame Installation Sequence (ADA and Polyethylene Air Barrier) .....	59
House Wrap Air Barrier Door Installation Sequence .....	63
Exterior Air Barrier Approach Installation Sequence .....	67



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 8 ROOFS, DECKS, WALKWAYS AND BALCONIES

##### Table of Contents

<b>ROOFS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Water Shedding Roofing.....	1
Asphalt Shingles .....	2
Cedar Shingles.....	3
Cedar Shakes .....	3
Concrete and Masonry Tiles.....	3
Metal .....	4
Sheet Roofing.....	7
Types of Sheet Membranes.....	11
Bitumen Built-up Roof (BUR) Membranes .....	11
Modified Bitumen Membranes .....	13
Single Ply Synthetic Membranes.....	16
Insulation Systems for Watertight Roofing .....	17
Conventional Roofing System .....	20
Construction Considerations for an IRMA Roof.....	24
Roofing Inspections and Quality Control .....	24
Roofing Membrane Performance.....	25
Roof Venting.....	27
<b>DECKS, BALCONIES AND WALKWAYS .....</b>	<b>30</b>
Balcony and Walkway Pedestrian Traffic Membranes .....	35
Railings on Decks, Balconies and Walkways.....	37
Posts on Decks, Balconies and Walkways.....	39
Additional Sources of Information on Roofing .....	40



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 9                   NEW CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING ENVELOPE — ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

##### Table of Contents

Role of the Building Envelope Professional.....	1
Role of the General Contractor.....	1
Quality Assurance Protocols for Construction .....	2
<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
What is Quality Assurance? .....	3
What is Quality?.....	3
Why Quality? .....	3
Develop a Quality Assurance Program Structure.....	3
Training .....	4
Manual of Instructions.....	4
<b>PROJECT DESIGN.....</b>	<b>4</b>
Setting up the Project Team .....	4
Establishing Project Timelines .....	4
Identify Design Parameters .....	5
Establishing Materials of Construction .....	5
<b>PROJECT CONSTRUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Construction Meeting Format .....	5
Successful Control Methods .....	6
Construction Materials Control .....	11
Consultant Reviews .....	11
Quality Assurance Reviews .....	11
Communication Techniques .....	12
Warranty Obligations .....	12
Project Facts Sheet and Checklists .....	12



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Home Warranty Insurance Indemnity Periods .....	12
End of Construction .....	13
Maintenance .....	13
General Notes .....	13
Commissioning Meeting .....	13
<b>APPENDIX A.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Homeowner Protection Act</i> .....	14
<b>APPENDIX B.....</b>	<b>16</b>
Building Envelope Project Facts Sheet.....	16



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope Solutions

#### Module 11 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

##### Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA BUILDING CODE .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Committees .....	1
Part 1: Scope and Definitions .....	2
Part 2: General .....	2
Part 3: Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility .....	2
Part 4: Structural Design .....	2
Part 5: Environmental Separation .....	2
Part 6: Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning .....	2
Part 7: Plumbing Services .....	3
Part 8: Safety Measures at Construction and Demolition Sites .....	3
Part 9: Housing and Small Buildings .....	3
<b>CODE APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Appendix A: Explanatory Material .....	3
Appendix B: Fire Safety in High Buildings .....	3
Appendix C: Climactic Information for Building Design in Canada .....	3
Appendix D: Fire-Performance Ratings .....	3
Appendix P. Explanatory Material for Plumbing .....	3
<b>WHERE BUILDINGS FALL UNDER THE CODE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Part 9 Buildings .....	4
Part 3 Buildings .....	4
<b>CODE SECTIONS THAT APPLY TO THE BUILDING ENVELOPE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Part 2 General Requirements .....	4
Part 5 Environmental Separation .....	6
Section 5.1 Application .....	6
Section 5.2 Loads and Procedures .....	6
Section 5.3 Heat Transfer .....	6



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

Section 5.4 Air Leakage .....	7
Section 5.5 Vapour Diffusion .....	7
Section 5.6 Precipitation .....	8
Section 5.7 Surface Water .....	8
Section 5.8 Moisture in the Ground .....	9
<b>PART 6 HEATING VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Section 6.2 Design and Installation .....	9
<b>PART 9 HOUSING AND SMALL BUILDINGS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
Section 9.6 Doors .....	12
Section 9.7 Windows and Skylights .....	12
Section 9.12 Excavation .....	12
Section 9.13 Dampproofing, Waterproofing and Soil Gas Control .....	12
Section 9.14 Drainage .....	15
Section 9.16 Floors on Ground .....	16
Section 9.19 Roof Spaces .....	17
Section 9.20 Above-Grade Masonry .....	18
Section 9.23 Wood Frame Construction .....	19
Section 9.25 Heat Transfer, Air Leakage and Condensation Control .....	20
Section 9.26 Roofing .....	23
Section 9.27 Cladding .....	



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### Building Envelope - manual contents

#### **MODULE D** Understand Building Science

- D1: Understand Overall Moisture Control Strategies  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Explain Concept of Moisture Balance LEARNING TASK 2: Describe the Overall Strategy for Moisture Control in Walls
- D2: Understand Moisture Movement Mechanisms  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Moisture Movement Mechanism  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Rank the Relative Magnitude of Moisture Movement Mechanisms
- D3: Understand Conditions for and Forces Causing Water Leakage  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Conditions for Water Leakage to Occur  
 LEARNING TASK 2: List Driving Forces that can Cause Water Leakage
- D4 : Understand Capillary Action and Causal Factors  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Capillary Action  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Factors Causing Capillary Action
- D5: Understand Air-borne Moisture and Causal Factors  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Explain Air-borne Moisture  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Conditions for Air-borne Moisture to Occur
- D6: Understand Principles of Air Tightness  
 LEARNING TASK 1:
- D7 : Understand Vapour Diffusion and Causal Factors  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Explain Vapour Diffusion  
 LEARNING TASK 2: List and Explain Factors Affecting Vapour Diffusion
- D8: Understand Condensation, Resulting Problems and Moisture Removal/Drying  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Condensation and Related Concepts  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Describe problems with high relative humidity and condensation  
 LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Moisture Removal/Drying
- D9: Understand Heat Flow and Insulation  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Heat Flow Mechanisms  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Describe the Principles of Insulation Performance
- D 10: Understand the Role of Mechanical Systems and Control of Interior Moisture Load
- D 11 : Understand “House-as-a System” Concept  
 LEARNING TASK 1: Describe the “House-as-a System” Concept  
 LEARNING TASK 2: Describe the Main Components of the Overall System  
 LEARNING TASK 3: Identify Key Components of the House System



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### MODULE E Understand Applied Building Science

#### E1: Understand Moisture Load

- LEARNING TASK 1: Understand Moisture Load
- LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Measures of Moisture Load
- LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Weather Exposure
- LEARNING TASK 4: Identify Moisture Indices for Various BC Communities

#### E2: Understand Methods for Controlling Forces Causing Water Leakage

- LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Methods for Controlling Water Leakage Caused by Gravity
- LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Methods for Controlling Water Leakage Caused by Momentum
- LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Methods for Controlling Water Leakage Caused by Capillarity/Surface Tension
- LEARNING TASK 4: Describe Methods for Controlling Water Leakage Caused by Air Pressure Differences

#### E3: Understand Methods for Controlling Capillary Action

- LEARNING TASK 1: Describe methods for controlling capillary action
- LEARNING TASK 2: Explain the Term, “Surfactants”

#### E4: Understand methods for controlling air-borne moisture

- LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Methods for Controlling Air-borne Moisture
- LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Methods for Controlling Openings
- LEARNING TASK 3: List Essential Features of an Air Barrier
- LEARNING TASK 4: Identify the Role of Other Occupations in Controlling Air-borne Moisture
- LEARNING TASK 5: Describe Key Features of R-2000 Technology, as they apply to the importance of air barriers in walls
- LEARNING TASK 6: Describe Alternate Techniques for Creating Air Barriers in Walls

#### E5: Understand Methods for Controlling Vapour

- LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Methods for Controlling Vapour
- LEARNING TASK 2: Explain Vapour Permeability
- LEARNING TASK 3: Identify the Role of Other Occupations in Controlling Vapour

#### E6: Understand Methods for Controlling Condensation and Drying

- LEARNING TASK 1: Outline Methods for Preventing/Limiting Condensation
- LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Methods for Removing Moisture/Drying Walls





# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### MODULE F Describe walls

F1: Understand elements and functions of walls

LEARNING TASK 1: Describe the Functions of a Wall

LEARNING TASK 2: Identify the Elements of a Wall and Functions of Each Element

F2: Understand Types of Walls

LEARNING TASK 1: Describe main types of walls in terms of mechanism and capacity for controlling water ingress

LEARNING TASK 2: Describe wall types by materials and structure

LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Wall Types by Location of Insulation

F3: Understand Critical Parts of Walls

LEARNING TASK 1: Identify Critical Wall Interfaces With Other Components

LEARNING TASK 2: Identify Critical Material Interfaces

### MODULE G Understand Relevant Regulatory Requirements

G1: Understand Relevant Regulatory Requirements Under Part 9 of the Current Building Code

LEARNING TASK 1: Identify Requirements Pertaining to Air Flow Control

LEARNING TASK 2: Identify Requirements Pertaining to Control of Water Ingress

LEARNING TASK 3: Identify Requirements Pertaining to Control of Capillary Action

LEARNING TASK 4: Identify Requirements Pertaining to Vapour Diffusion

LEARNING TASK 5: Identify New Part 9 Requirements of the National Building Code

LEARNING TASK 6: Identify Relevant Regulatory Requirements of the Homeowner Protection Office and Warrantors 7

G2: Understand Relevant New Regulatory Requirements Under Part 5 of the Building Code

LEARNING TASK 1: Identify Requirements Pertaining to Moisture Control in Walls of Buildings Governed by Part 5 Requirements

### MODULE J Install Windows and Doors

J1: Understand Types of Window

LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Types of Windows by Frame Attachment Detail

LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Types of Windows in Terms of Wall Type

LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Alternate Types of Windows in Terms of Frame Materials

LEARNING TASK 4: Describe Alternate Types of Doors

J2: Prepare Wall for Window and Door Installation and Install Windows and Doors in Rough Openings

LEARNING TASK 1: Install Sill and Jamb Flashing Papers

LEARNING TASK 2: Install Windows and Doors for Rainscreen and Non-rainscreen Windows



# 2023 BC Step and Building Codes

## Course Outline

### **MODULE L**                      **Apply Self-adhered Membranes**

#### L3: Apply Self-adhered Membrane

LEARNING TASK 1: Apply Self-adhered Membranes in Typical Locations (e.g., inside and outside corners)

LEARNING TASK 2: Apply Self-adhered Membranes as an Air and Vapour Barrier in Exterior Insulated Walls

### **MODULE M**                      **Install Strapping**

#### M1: Understand Strapping Requirements

LEARNING TASK 1: Explain the Purpose of Strapping

LEARNING TASK 2: Identify Building Code Requirements for Strapping

LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Material Requirements for Strapping

#### M2: Install Strapping

LEARNING TASK 1: Describe Strapping Attachment Guidelines

LEARNING TASK 2: Install Strapping

LEARNING TASK 3: Install Screening for Insects on Rainscreen Walls

### **MODULE N**                      **Apply Sealants**

#### N1: Understand Materials, Purpose and Proper Use of Sealants

LEARNING TASK 1: Explain Sealants, Their Function and Requirements

LEARNING TASK 2: Describe Typical Locations and Applications of Sealants

LEARNING TASK 3: Describe Joint Design

LEARNING TASK 4: Identify Material Compatibility Issues<sup>6</sup>

LEARNING TASK 5: Describe Safety Requirements

#### N2: Apply Sealants

LEARNING TASK 1: Apply sealants

