

CHAPTER 3

DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

GENERAL COMMENTS

All terms defined for the GBCP-2023 are listed alphabetically in Chapter 3. The words or terms defined in this chapter are of prime importance in either specifying the subject matter of the code provisions or in giving meaning to certain terms used throughout the code for administrative or enforcement purposes. The code user should be familiar with the terms found in this chapter because the definitions are essential to the correct interpretation of the code and because the user might not know how a particular term found in the text is defined.

PURPOSE

Codes, by their nature, are technical documents. Every word, term and punctuation mark can alter a sentence's meaning and, if misused, confuse its intent. Further, the code, with its broad scope of applicability, includes terms inherent in a variety of construction disciplines. These terms can often have multiple meanings, depending on the context or discipline in which they are being used. For these reasons, maintaining a consensus on the specific meaning of terms contained in the code is essential. Chapter 3 performs this function by stating clearly what specific terms mean for the purpose of the code.

301.1 (3.1) General. Certain terms, abbreviations, and acronyms are defined in this section for the purposes of this code. These definitions are applicable to all sections of this code.

Terms that are not defined herein, but that are defined in standards that are referenced herein (*Informative Note*: e.g., ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1), shall have the meanings as defined in those standards.

Other terms that are not defined shall have their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. Ordinarily accepted meanings shall be based on American standard English language usage, as documented in an *approved* unabridged dictionary.

301.2 (3.2) Definitions:

agricultural land: land that is, or was, within ten years prior to the date of the building permit application for the building project, primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production. Land that meets this definition is agricultural land regardless of how the land is zoned by the local government with zoning jurisdiction over that land.

agency: is a business, firm, or organization that provide a specific service.

agrifiber product: wheatboard or strawboard.

air, makeup: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

air, outdoor: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

air, transfer: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

airflow, minimum outdoor: the outdoor airflow provided by a ventilation system to meet requirements for indoor air quality, excluding any additional *outdoor air* intake to reduce or eliminate the need for *mechanical cooling*.

alternative daily cover: cover material, other than earthen material, placed on the surface of the active face of a municipal solid-waste landfill at the end of each operating day to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter, and scavenging.

annual sunlight exposure (ASE): the percent of an analysis area that exceeds a specified direct-sunlight illuminance level for more than a specified number of hours per year (Source: IES LM 83). *Annual sunlight exposure* is a metric that quantifies the potential for excessive sunlight in interior work environments.

approved: acceptable to the *authority having jurisdiction*.

approved agency: an established and recognized agency that is regularly engaged in conducting tests, furnishing inspection services, or furnishing product certification where such agency has been *approved*.

approved source: an independent person, firm, or corporation, *approved by the authority having jurisdiction*, who is competent and experienced in the application of engineering principles to materials, methods, or systems analyses.

attic and other roofs: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

authority having jurisdiction (AHJ): an organization, office, agency or department responsible for enforcing the compliance requirements of GBCP-2023. AHJ shall be the following, whichever has jurisdiction and circle:

1. Building Control, Housing and Development Authorities
2. District Administration
3. Tehsil or Town Administration
4. Municipal Administration
5. Station Headquarters (Army, Air Force and Navy)
6. Cantonment Administration

7. Union Council Administration
8. Autonomous Bodies
9. Industrial Estates
10. Directorates of Civil Defense
11. Export Processing Zones
12. Other Federal/Provincial Authorities as and when notified

automatic: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

automatic shut-off control: a device capable of automatically turning loads off without manual intervention. *Automatic shut-off controls* include devices such as occupancy sensors, vacancy sensors, motion sensors, programmable time switches, or count-down timers.

baseline building design: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

baseline building performance: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

Basis of Design (BoD): a document that records the concepts, calculations, decisions, and product selections used to meet the *owner's project requirements* and to satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, standards, and guidelines. The document includes both narrative descriptions and lists of individual items that support the design process. (See *owner's project requirements*.)

bilevel lighting control: lighting control in a *space* that provides at least one intermediate level of lighting power in addition to fully ON and fully OFF. Continuous dimming systems are covered by this definition.

biobased product: a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that comprises, in whole or in significant part, biological products or renewable agricultural materials (including *plant*, animal, and marine materials) or forestry materials.

biodiverse plantings: nonhomogeneous, multiple-species plantings.

breathing zone: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

brownfield: a *site* documented as contaminated by means of an ASTM E1903 Phase II Environmental Site Assessment or a *site* classified as a *brownfield* by a local, state, or federal government agency.

building entrance: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

building envelope: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

building project: a building, or group of buildings, and *site* that utilize a single submittal for a construction permit or that are within the boundary of contiguous properties under single ownership or effective control. (See *owner*.)

carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e): a measure used to compare the impact of various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential (GWP). CO₂e approximates the time-integrated warming effect of a unit mass of a given greenhouse gas relative to that of carbon dioxide (CO₂). GWP is an index for estimating the relative global warming contribution of atmospheric emissions of a particular greenhouse gas compared to emissions of an equal mass of CO₂.

classroom: a *space* primarily used for scheduled instructional activities.

combined energy efficiency ratio (CEER [I-P]) (CCOP_c [SI]): the combined energy efficiency is a ratio of the total cooling in one year divided by the total energy from active, stand-by, and OFF modes as defined in AHAM Standard RAC-1, expressed in Btu/h/W (W/W).

combined heat and power system (CHP): an on-site or off-site district energy conversion plant that delivers both electricity and thermal energy, where a portion or all of the thermal energy serves the *building project*.

commissioning (Cx) plan: a document that outlines the organization, schedule, allocation of resources, and documentation requirements of the building *commissioning process*. (See *commissioning [Cx] process*.)

commissioning (Cx) process: a quality-focused process for enhancing the delivery of a project. The process focuses on verifying and documenting that the facility and all of its systems and assemblies are planned, designed, installed, tested, operated, and maintained to meet the *owner's project requirements*. (See *owner's project requirements*.)

commissioning (Cx) provider: an *approved* entity, identified by the *owner*, who manages the commissioning team to implement the building *commissioning process*. (See *commissioning [Cx] process*.) (**Informative Note:** This entity is sometimes known as a "commissioning authority," "CxA," or *approved agency*. See *commissioning [Cx] process*.)

community renewable energy facility: a facility that generates electricity energy with photovoltaic, solar thermal, *geothermal energy*, or wind systems, and is qualified as a community energy facility under applicable state and local utility statutes and rules.

composite wood product: hardwood plywood made with a veneer or composite core, particleboard, or medium density fiberboard (MDF).

conditioned space: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

construction documents: written, graphic, and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location, and physical characteristics of the elements of a project necessary for obtaining a building permit.

contaminant: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

continuous air barrier: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

cycles of concentration: the ratio of make-up rate to the sum of the blowdown and drift rates.

daylight area: area in an *enclosed space* that is in the *primary sidelighted area*, *daylight area under roof monitors*, or *daylight area under skylights*.

daylight area under roof monitors: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

daylight area under skylights: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

daylight hours: the period from 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset.

demand control ventilation (DCV): see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

densely occupied space: those *spaces* with a design occupant density greater than or equal to 25 people per 1000 ft² (100 m²).

designated park land: federal-, state-, or local-government-owned land that is formally designated and set aside as park land or a wildlife preserve.

design conditions: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

dimmer: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

DISCO: Distribution company

district energy plant: a centralized cooling or heating plant (e.g., centralized chiller or boiler plant) that distributes *district heating or cooling* to multiple buildings and loads, one of which being the *building project*.

district energy system (DES): a thermal energy system made up of one or more *district energy plants* and a *district thermal distribution system*.

district heating or cooling: heat transfer media, such as chilled water, hot water, or steam, produced by a *district energy plant* and transported via a *district thermal distribution system*.

district thermal distribution system: a system for transporting *district heating or cooling* from a *district energy plant* to the *building project*. The system includes all energy consuming equipment involved with transport, including pumps, heat exchangers, water treatment, thermal losses, and pressure control.

dwelling unit: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

dynamic glazing: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE): the conductors—including the ungrounded, grounded, and equipment grounding conductors—and the electric vehicle connectors, attachment plugs, and all other fittings, devices, power outlets, or apparatus installed specifically for the purpose of transferring energy between the premises wiring and the electric vehicle.

electronics: computers and accessories; monitors; printers; and other equipment, such as scanners, fax machines, electric typewriters, cell phones, telephones, answering machines, shredders, postage machines, televisions, VHS/DVD players, portable cassette/CD players with radio devices, and stereo equipment.

emergency ride home: access to transportation home in the case of a personal emergency or unscheduled overtime for employees who commute via transit, carpool, or vanpool.

enclosed space: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

enthalpy recovery ratio: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

evapotranspiration (ET): the sum of evaporation from soil and *plant* surfaces and transpiration of water through leaf stomata.

ET_c: *evapotranspiration* of the *plant* material derived by multiplying *ET_o* by the appropriate *plant* factor or coefficient.

ET_o: reference *evapotranspiration* for a cool-season grass as calculated by the standardized Penman-Monteith equation based on weather station data.

EV ready space: a designated parking space provided with a 50 A, 208/240V dedicated branch circuit for Level 2 *EVSE*. The circuit shall include an overcurrent protective device and shall terminate in a junction box, NEMA 6-50 or NEMA 14-50 receptacle, or *EVSE* and be located in close proximity to the proposed location of the EV parking spaces.

fan energy index (FEI): the ratio of the electric input power of a reference fan to the electric input power of the actual fan as calculated per AMCA 208.

fenestration: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

fenestration area: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

fish and wildlife habitat conservation area: areas with which state or federally designated endangered, threatened, or sensitive species have a primary association.

forest land: all designated state forests, national forests, and all land that is, or was, within ten years prior to the date of the building permit for the *building project*, primarily devoted to growing trees for long-term commercial timber production.

functional and performance testing (FPT): testing performed to ensure that designated systems of the project meet the intended design performance requirements.

functional and performance testing provider (FPT provider): an entity identified by the *owner* who manages the activities needed to implement the building *functional and performance testing (FPT)* activities.

general lighting: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

generally accepted engineering standard: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

geothermal energy: heat extracted from the Earth's interior that is used to produce electricity or mechanical power or to provide thermal energy for heating buildings or processes. *Geothermal energy* does not include systems such as heat pumps that use energy independent of the geothermal source to raise the temperature of the extracted heat.

greenfield: a *site* of which 20% or less has been previously developed with impervious surfaces.

greyfield: a *site* of which more than 20% is currently or has been previously developed with impervious surfaces.

gross conditioned floor area: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

gross roof area: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

gross wall area: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

ground cover: plantings other than *turfgrass* that are low-growing and form dense vegetation over the soil area.

hardscape: *site* paved areas, including roads, driveways, parking lots, walkways, courtyards, and plazas.

hardwood plywood: a hardwood or decorative panel that is intended for interior use and composed of (as determined under ANSI/HPVA HP-1) an assembly of layers or plies of veneer, joined by an adhesive with a lumber core, a particleboard core, a medium density fiberboard core, a hardboard core, a veneer core, or any other special core or special back material. Hardwood plywood does not include military-specified plywood, curved plywood, or any plywood specified in PS-1, or PS-2.

heat island effect: the tendency of urban areas to be at a warmer temperature than surrounding rural areas.

high-performance green building: a building designed, constructed, and capable of being operated in a manner that increases environmental performance and economic value over time, seeks to establish an indoor environment that supports the health of occupants, and enhances satisfaction and productivity of occupants through integration of environmentally preferable building materials and water-efficient and energy-efficient systems.

high-speed door: a nonswinging door used primarily to facilitate vehicular access or material transportation, and having an *automatic* closing device with an opening rate of not less than 32 in./s (810 mm/s) and a closing rate of not less than 24 in./s (610 mm/s).

hourly average sound pressure level (L_{eq}): time-mean-square frequency-weighted sound pressure level for one hour.

hydrozone: an irrigated area of landscape in which the *plants* have similar water needs and are irrigated by the same type of emission devices.

improved landscape: any disturbed area of the *site* where new *plant* and/or grass materials are to be used, including green roofs, plantings for stormwater controls, planting boxes, and similar vegetative use. *Improved landscape* shall not include *hardscape* areas such as sidewalks, driveways, other paved areas, and swimming pools or decking.

institutional tuning: the process, by authorized personnel, of adjusting the maximum light output of individual luminaires, groups of luminaires, or entire lighting systems to support visual needs or to save energy. *Institutional tuning* is also known as “high-end trim control.”

integrated design process: a design process using early collaboration among representatives of each stakeholder and participating consultant on the project. Unlike the conventional, or linear, design process, integrated design requires broad stakeholder/consultant participation.

integrated project delivery: see *integrated design process*.

interior projection factor (PF): see *projection factor, interior*.

irrigation adequacy: a representation of how well irrigation meets the needs of the *plant* material. This reflects the percentage of required water for turf or *plant* material supplied by rainfall and controller-scheduled irrigations.

irrigation excess: a representation of the amount of irrigation water applied beyond the needs of the *plant* material. This reflects the percentage of water applied in excess of 100% of required water.

irrigation station: a set of irrigation emission devices supplied water by a single control valve. Also referred to as an “irrigation zone.”

isolation devices: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

labeled: equipment, materials, or products to which has been affixed a label, seal, symbol, or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, *approved* agency, or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material, or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

laminated product: product in which a wood or woody grass veneer is affixed to a particleboard core or platform, a medium-density fiberboard core or platform, or a veneer core or platform.

landscape establishment period: a time period, beginning on the date of completion of permanent plantings and not exceeding 18 months, intended to allow the permanent landscape to become sufficiently established to remain viable.

Langelier Saturation Index (LSI): a measure of a solution’s ability to dissolve or deposit calcium carbonate that is often used as an indicator of the corrosivity of water, calculated using the following formula:

$$LSI = pH - pH_s$$

where:

$$pH = \text{measured water pH}$$

$$pH_s = \text{pH at saturation in calcium carbonate}$$

life-cycle assessment (LCA): a compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs, and potential environmental impacts of a building system throughout its life cycle. *LCA* addresses the environmental aspects and potential environmental impacts (e.g., use of resources and environmental consequences of releases) throughout a building’s life cycle, from raw material acquisition

through manufacturing, construction, use, operation, end-of-life treatment, recycling, and final disposal (end of life). The purpose is to identify opportunities to improve the environmental performance of buildings throughout their life cycles.

lighting power allowance: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

lighting quality: the degree to which the luminous environment in a *space* supports the requirements of the occupants.

lighting zone (LZ): an area defining limitations for outdoor lighting.

LZ0: undeveloped areas within national parks, state parks, *forest land*, rural areas, and other undeveloped areas as defined by the *AHJ*.

LZ1: developed areas of national parks, state parks, *forest land*, and rural areas.

LZ2: areas predominantly consisting of *residential* zoning, neighborhood business districts, light industrial with limited night time use, and *residential* mixed use.

LZ3: all areas not included in *LZ0*, *LZ1*, *LZ2*, or *LZ4*.

LZ4: high-activity commercial districts in major metropolitan areas as designated by the local jurisdiction.

liner system (Ls): an insulation system for a metal building *roof* that includes the following components. A continuous membrane is installed below the purlins and is uninterrupted by framing members. Uncompressed, unfaced insulation rests on top of the membrane between the purlins. For multilayer installations, the last rated R-value of insulation is for unfaced insulation draped over purlins and then compressed when the metal *roof* panels are attached. A minimum R-3 (R-0.5) thermal spacer block between the purlins and the metal *roof* panels is required unless compliance is shown by the overall assembly U-factor or otherwise noted.

listed: equipment, materials, products, or services included in a list published by an *approved* organization and concerned with evaluation of products or services that maintains periodic inspection of production of listed equipment or materials or periodic evaluation of services and whose listing states either that the equipment, material, product, or service meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

low-impact trail: erosion-stabilized pathway or track that uses natural groundcover or installed system greater than 50% pervious. The pathway or track is designed and used only for pedestrian and nonmotorized vehicles (excluding power-assisted conveyances for individuals with disabilities).

maintenance plan: see *maintenance program* in ANSI/ASHRAE/ACCA Standard 180.

maximum sound pressure level (L_{max}): greatest frequency-weighted and exponential-time-weighted sound level within a stated time interval.

mechanical cooling: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

medium-density fiberboard: a panel composed of cellulosic fibers made by dry forming and pressing a resinated fiber mat (as determined under ANSI A208.2).

multilevel lighting control: lighting control in a *space* that provides at least two intermediate levels of lighting power in addition to fully ON and fully OFF. Continuous dimming systems are covered by this definition.

nameplate rating: the design load operating conditions of a device as shown by the *manufacturer* on the nameplate or otherwise marked on the device.

NEPRA: National Electric Power Regulation Authority

networked guest-room control system: an energy management control system, accessible from the hotel/motel front desk or other central location, that is capable of identifying reserved rooms according to a timed schedule and is capable of controlling each hotel/motel guest room separately.

nonresidential: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

nonstandard part-load value (NPLV): see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

occupant load: the number of persons for which the means of egress of a building or portion thereof is designed.

occupiable space: see ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 62.1.

office furniture system: either a panel-based workstation comprising modular interconnecting panels, hang-on components, and drawer/filing components, or a freestanding grouping of furniture items and their components that have been designed to work in concert.

once-through cooling: the use of water as a cooling medium, where the water is passed through a heat exchanger one time and is then discharged to the drainage system. This also includes the use of water to reduce the temperature of condensate or process water before discharging it to the drainage system.

on-site renewable energy system: photovoltaic, solar thermal, *geothermal energy*, and wind systems used to generate energy and located on any of the following:

- a. The building.
- b. The property upon which the building is located.
- c. A property that shares a boundary with and is under the same ownership or control as the property on which the building is located.
- d. A property that is under the same ownership or control as the property on which the building is located and is separated only by a public right-of-way from the property on which the building is located.

open-graded (uniform-sized) aggregate: materials such as crushed stone or decomposed granite that provide 30% to 40% void spaces.

outdoor air fault condition: a situation in which the measured *minimum outdoor airflow* of a ventilation system is 10% or more below the set-point value that corresponds to the occupancy and operation conditions at the time of the measurement.

owner: the party in responsible control of development, construction, or operation of a project at any given time.

owner's project requirements (OPR): a document that specifies the functional requirements of a project and the expectations of how it will be used and operated, including project goals, measurable performance criteria, cost considerations, benchmarks, success criteria, training requirements, documentation requirements, and supporting information.

particleboard: a panel composed of cellulosic material in the form of discrete particles (as distinguished from fibers, flakes, or strands) that are pressed together with resin (as determined under ANSI A208.1). Particleboard does not include any product specified in PS-2, *Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels*.

permanently installed: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

permeable pavement: pervious concrete or porous asphalt that allows the movement of water and air through the paving material and which is primarily used as paving for roads, parking lots, and walkways. Permeable paving materials have an open-graded coarse aggregate with interconnected voids.

permeable pavers: units that present a solid surface but allow natural drainage and migration of water into the base below by permitting water to drain through the spaces between the pavers.

plants:

- a. **adapted plants:** *plants* that reliably grow well in a given habitat with minimal attention from humans in the form of winter protection, pest protection, water irrigation, or fertilization once root systems are established in the soil. *Adapted plants* are considered to be low maintenance but not invasive.
- b. **invasive plants:** species of *plants* that are not native to the *building project site* and that cause or are likely to cause environmental harm. At a minimum, the list of invasive species for a *building project site* includes *plants* included in city, county, and regional lists and state and federal noxious weeds laws.
- c. **native plants:** *plants* that adapted to a given area during a defined time period and are not invasive. In America, the term often refers to *plants* growing in a region prior to the time of settlement by people of European descent.
- d. **rainfall-ET_c compatible plants:** *plants* with documented ET_c rates and having all of the following characteristics: (1) not native or invasive to the local geographic area of the *site*; (2) after the *landscape establishment period*, do not require supplemental annual irrigation, based on the ten-year average annual rainfall of the local climate and based on 80% of the *plant's* ET_c.

porous pavers (open-grid pavers): units where at least 40% of the surface area consists of holes or openings that are filled with sand, gravel, other porous material, or vegetation.

postconsumer recycled content: proportion of *recycled material* in a product generated by households or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain. (See *recycled material*.)

preconsumer recycled content: proportion of *recycled material* in a product diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Content that shall not be considered preconsumer recycled includes the reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind, or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. (See *recycled material*.)

primary sidelighted area: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

projection factor (PF): see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

projection factor (PF), interior: the ratio of the horizontal depth of the interior shading projection divided by the sum of the height of the *fenestration* above the interior shading projection and, if the interior projection is below the bottom of the *fenestration*, the vertical distance from the bottom of the *fenestration* to the top of the farthest point of the interior shading projection, in consistent units.

proposed building performance: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

proposed design: see ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1.

public way: a street, alley, transit right of way, or other parcel of land open to the outdoors and leading to a street or transit right of way that has been deeded, dedicated, or otherwise permanently appropriated for public use and that has a clear width and height of not less than 10 ft (3 m).

Pump Energy Index (PEI): ratio of the pump energy rating of a given pump type and model divided by the pump energy rating of the same pump type and characteristics minimally compliant with US regulations.

REC: see *renewable energy certificate* (REC).

recovered material: material that would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery (**Informative Note:** e.g., incinerated for power generation) but has instead been collected and recovered as a material input, in lieu of new primary material, for a recycling or a manufacturing process.

recycled content: proportion by mass of *recycled material* in a product or packaging. Only preconsumer and postconsumer materials shall be considered as *recycled content*. (See *recycled material*.)