

## Division Opinion

**Inquiry** :# 2011-02

**Subject:** Not allowing the use of Com-Check as a design tool for energy compliance of Commercial buildings

**Code:** 1323.0562

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**Approved By:** Stephen Hernick

**Issue Date:** October 12, 2011

**Question:** Why is Com-Check not permitted to be used as a design document for commercial buildings, even though Commercial Energy Code, section 1323.0562, states it shall be deemed to comply?

**Answer:** Changes with funding, staffing and staff time constraints, for both Pacific National Laboratories (PNL) and the United States Department of Energy (DOE), did not allow the update to the Com-Check program to meet Minnesota Specific Requirements.

**Discussion:** When the Commercial Energy Code committee wrote the Commercial Energy Code, they added Com-Check as a way to design and provide documentation that the building will be in compliance with Minnesota's Commercial Energy Code. Unfortunately, due to the funding and staffing items, PNL could not update it to be Minnesota specific.

**Background Information:** State of Minnesota Staff received a letter from Mr. Gary Sames of the DOE on August 25, 2009, notifying Minnesota that they would not be able to update ComCheck or ResCheck for Minnesota (the Commercial Energy Code was adopted on June 1, 2009). See the following quote from his letter:

“I wish to inform you that, unfortunately, DOE will be unable to support Minnesota's request to update Comcheck for its state-specific amendments. It has been determined that the requested changes will require a major rework of ComCheck – both to the software engine and the graphical user interface. Minnesota will be removed from the Code menu in both the ResCheck and ComCheck release that will be coming out shortly.”

Note: Minnesota hopes to include both ComCheck and ResCheck into the code with the adoption of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)