

**Energy Efficiency (Section 9.36)****NBC 2015**

- Single compliance path
- Baseline insulation standards
- No tiered performance levels
- Basic HVAC efficiency requirements

NBC 2020

- New 5-tier performance system
- Stricter insulation and airtightness targets
- EnerGuide Rating System as compliance path
- Path toward Net Zero Energy Ready

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

Your new home should hold heat better and use less energy. The new code gives builders five levels to aim for. The higher the level, the less you spend on heating each winter.

In New Brunswick, heating costs are a big part of owning a home. A tighter, better-insulated house keeps more warm air inside and more cold air out.

**Window Fall Protection (Section 9.8.8)****NBC 2015**

- Basic guard requirements
- Exemptions by dwelling type
- Exemptions by window opening size
- Less prescriptive control mechanisms

NBC 2020

- 900 mm minimum sill height for openable windows
- 100 mm max opening or safety device required
- No exemptions by dwelling type
- Applies to all windows above 1,800 mm from grade

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

If you have young children, this one matters most. Windows on upper floors now need to be harder to fall out of. The bottom of the window has to be at least knee height (about 3 feet up).

If the window opens wider than 4 inches, it needs a safety device to stop a child from pushing through. No exceptions for any home type.

**Fire Separation & Safety****NBC 2015**

- Standard garage-to-dwelling separation
- Basic fire alarm requirements
- Standard safety glazing rules

NBC 2020

- Updated garage and dwelling fire separation
- Low-frequency alarms required in sleeping rooms
- Safety glazing extended to showers and bathtubs

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

The wall between your garage and your living space now has stricter rules. This keeps car exhaust and fire from reaching your family.

Smoke alarms in bedrooms now use a deeper sound. Studies showed that children and heavy sleepers wake up faster to a low tone than a high-pitched beep. Shower glass also has to be safer so it does not break into sharp pieces.