

**INTERPRETATION IC 55-2013-1 OF  
ANSI/ASHRAE STANDARD 55-2013  
THERMAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS FOR HUMAN OCCUPANCY**

**Date Approved:** September 8, 2014

**Request from:** Robert Bean ([k9cave@shaw.ca](mailto:k9cave@shaw.ca)), Indoor Climate Consultants Inc., 347 Willow Ridge Pl. S.E., Calgary, Ab. T2J 1N2.

**Reference:** This request for interpretation refers to requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55-2013, Sections 1 and 2 (Page 4), relating to the purpose and scope of Standard 55-2013.

**Background:** It has been the experience of this user that ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, is incorrectly deemed by building officials, regulators, designers and others involved in housing to be not applicable to residential construction. Reference to the Standard is absent from such housing programs as LEED, RESNET and ENERGY STAR et al and from building code sections addressing residential construction. Additionally, a typical building code statement addressing thermal conditions in homes is, "...required heating facilities shall be capable of maintaining an *indoor air temperature of not less than 22°C (71.6°F)* in all living spaces." (ref.: NBC of Canada). Such statements ignore at least 9 other thermal comfort parameters identified in the 55 Standard. Furthermore in ASHRAE's recent publication, "Final Report: ASHRAE and the Residential Construction Market" there is not (as far as I could tell) a single reference to thermal comfort. Nor (as far as I could tell) is there a Standard 55 Purpose and Scope representative in the exhaustive list of committee members and invited stakeholders.

**Interpretation:** Despite the absence of reference to thermal comfort in residential codes, building programs and housing reports, I am interpreting ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, as applicable to single and multi-family residential construction excluding those activities and clothing ensembles defined by Section 5.2.2.3 Limits of Applicability.

**Question:** Is the interpretation correct?

**Answer:** Yes; ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 55, *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy*, is applicable to single and multi-family residential construction excluding those activities and clothing ensembles defined by Section 5.2.2.3 Limits of Applicability."