

# New York Electrical Inspection Agency

## 2025 Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State

### Lighting Requirements (R404) – Residential Summary

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#### 1. Lighting Equipment (R404.1)

- All permanently installed luminaires must meet minimum efficacy requirements of at least 45 lumens per watt, or contain lamps rated at 65 lumens per watt.
- Certain exceptions apply, including appliance lamps, antimicrobial lighting, DOE-compliant general service lamps, and low-wattage fixtures (3 watts or less).

#### 2. Exterior Lighting (R404.1.1–R404.1.5)

- These requirements apply primarily to Group R-2, R-3, and R-4 buildings, with exemptions for one- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, and certain small R-3 buildings.
- Exterior lighting must not exceed the calculated lighting power allowance, which includes a base allowance of 280 watts plus additional allowances based on site features such as walkways, parking areas, and entrances.
- Certain lighting types, including emergency lighting, exit signs, decorative lighting, and code-required egress lighting, are excluded from these calculations.
- Additional allowance is permitted for façade lighting at 0.075 watts per square foot of wall area, but only for that purpose. Gas lighting must use approved ignition systems and cannot have continuous pilots.

#### 3. Interior Lighting Controls (R404.2)

- Lighting in habitable spaces must be controlled by either a manual dimmer or an automatic shutoff system that turns lighting off within 20 minutes of vacancy, while still allowing manual operation.
- In garages, unfinished basements, laundry rooms, and utility rooms, automatic shutoff controls are required, again with manual override capability.

#### 4. Exterior Lighting Controls (R404.3.1)

- For dwelling units where exterior lighting exceeds 30 watts, lighting must be controlled by a manual switch and automatically shut off when adequate daylight is present.
- Any override function must automatically return the system to normal operation within 24 hours.

#### 5. Renewable Energy (R404.4 – NY)

- When renewable energy is used to meet code requirements, documentation must be provided in the form of a signed attestation confirming that Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs) are properly retained or retired in compliance with the code.

#### 6. Metering (R404.5 – NY)

- Each dwelling unit in Group R-2 buildings must be individually metered or submetered to track electrical usage.

**Group R-1 – Transient Residential** - Buildings where occupants stay **less than 30 days**. *Examples: hotels, motels.*

**Group R-2 – Multi-Family Residential** - Buildings with **multiple permanent dwelling units**. *Examples: apartments, condominiums, dormitories.*

**Group R-3 – One- and Two-Family Residential** - Buildings with **one or two dwelling units or small residential occupancies**. *Examples: single-family homes, duplexes, townhouses.*

**Group R-4 – Residential Care/Assisted Living** - Residential buildings where occupants receive **custodial care (5–16 persons)**. *Examples: group homes, assisted living facilities.*