The new Residential Energy Code passed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) became effective on July 1, 2014. Now all single-family wood framed tract housing must perform at or above the following Standard using Continuous Insulation (CI):

- When using 2 x 4 wood studs and R-13 batts (cavity insulation), then R-5 CI is required (either 1.5" EPS or 1" XP foam extruded)
- When using 2 x 4 wood studs and R-15 batts (cavity insulation), then R-4 CI is required (this is a harder to find non-standard batt and more expensive)

CI is now a part of the prescriptive requirement in all climate zones, and therefore the standard design for performance-based compliance.

Changes significantly impact coastal areas because those coastal zones were not required to add wall insulation during the last code cycle. With each 3 year code cycle the standard will only become more stringent.

Merlex Stucco offers a product to help meet Title 24 energy efficiency building standards. Merlex Stucco offers Insulex, a continuous insulation one-coat stucco system factory mixed with:

- Fibers for strength, sag-resistance
- Water reducers for crack-resistance
- Plasticizers for workability
- Finish coat can be cement or acrylic stucco
- Finish applied after 48 hours moist curing
**Continuous Insulation** (CI) is the only way to block thermal bridging. Wrapping the exterior wall in a continuous layer of rigid foam protects the cavity and the stud, providing high R-value in several ways:

- Insulation between studs provides 4" of insulation in the wall
- Continuous Insulation outside the studs provides an additional 1" or more of insulation value AND reduces heat loss through the studs
- The result is lower heating and cooling costs and enhanced interior comfort with the look of stucco in a proven system certified by ICC to perform like 3-coat stucco

Cavity insulation alone allows thermal bridging.

![Before Continuous Insulation](image1)

![After Continuous Insulation](image2)

Adding exterior continuous insulation prevents heat flow through framing.

Whether commercial or residential, building experts agree CI serves as the best practice for limiting thermal bridging.

*For more detailed technical data, please visit our website, www.merlex.com.*