

Comments Via E-mail From Kevin Egle, B&B Engineering Corporation

I believe that there should be a change to the attic hatch thermal bypass inspection of the Energy Star Qualified Homes Specifications. I believe Energy Star should address the air leakage and U-value of the attic hatch similar to the way it addresses windows. Maximum values for air leakage and minimum values for U-value should be specified. It should also be specified that the door is required to open and still meet these specifications. This eliminates the false air leakage rates of a hatch that is painted shut.

These changes would drive builders to use higher performing attic hatches that would save energy. Today there is no motivation for a builder to address the attic hatch. And, it is not known what the actual energy loss for the hatch is.

I would be happy to discuss more details about this proposed specification. Thank you for considering this change.