

Comments Received Via E-mail From Gene Meyer, Training Director,
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I have long been concerned that the specifications for duct leakage include only leakage to outside. Internal duct leakage does significantly affect the performance and safety of today's houses.

While I will admit the most critical leakage factor related to energy is leakage to outside, leakage inside the conditioned space can depressurize basements and crawlspaces causing the introduction of soil gas, combustion appliances to back draft, and increase infiltration and exfiltration. The IECC 2004 requires duct sealing and does not limit that sealing to ducts outside conditioned space. Why should Energy Star require anything less.

I am unable to find any specifics on the sizing of HVAC systems described as Right-size on the web page. What does this term mean and will it be clearly defined? Also, I think it is critical you define Manual J, Version 8 for HVAC sizing. There are lots of applications that loosely follow Manual J and fail to meet the detail needed.