

Current ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes Policy Record

How to Use This Document

EPA regularly receives partner questions and comments regarding various aspects of the program documents. This document is a record of the issues that have been received since the release of the last revision to the program documents. These issues are either pending resolution by EPA or have been resolved, sometimes resulting in modifications that will be incorporated into the next revision of the program documents. The primary purpose of this document is to allow all partners to have equal access to the latest policy issues and resolutions.

For Version 2.5 and Version 3, EPA intends to formally incorporate policy modifications into the next revision of the program documents. Those edits will then be enforced for homes permitted after a specified transition period, typically 60 days from the release of the revised guidelines. Partners may, at their discretion, use the determinations in this document immediately, in advance of the formal implementation dates. If they do so, they should be sure to document the permit dates of the affected homes and to include a copy of the policy record in the files retained by the Home Energy Rater. Should the need arise, this will allow partners to demonstrate that they acted with the best information available.

Definitions

Each issue listed here is classified as a Change, Clarification, Refinement, Comment, or as an Issue Under Review. These are defined as follows:

- ***Change*** – The addition, deletion, or modification of a program requirement. A change will typically result from a partner question or feedback indicating that EPA's original intent is not being met or due to changes in relevant standards (e.g., ENERGY STAR labeled product requirements, NAECA standards, IECC codes). A change is the most significant type of edit for partners because it is likely to change the way that partners comply with the program.
- ***Clarification*** – The clarification of a program requirement, typically resulting from a partner question indicating confusion or ambiguity. Clarifications are not intended to significantly change the scope of the program guidelines, but rather to clarify the original intent of the requirement. A clarification is secondary in importance to a change; it should not significantly alter the way that most partners comply with the program.
- ***Refinement*** – A minor revision, such as an improved choice of words, a grammatical correction, or a correction to a typographical error. A refinement is the least important type of edit; it should have no impact on the way that partners comply with the program.
- ***Comment*** – A comment provided by EPA in response to a question, which results in no change to the program documents. This may occur, for example, if the question can be answered by referring to already established policy. Aside from the partner asking the question, such comments will typically have no impact on the way that partners comply with the program.
- ***Issue Under Review*** – An issue that has been submitted and that EPA is still evaluating. Once EPA has evaluated the issue, it will offer a resolution and reclassify the issue using one of the four categories above.

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ID	Log Date	Program Document	Classification	Topic
00008	07/25/2011	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 03)	Issue Under Review	Performance Path – Modeling requirements for multifamily buildings
				Issue: Partners have asked if each unit in a multifamily building must be modeled, or if either the entire building as a whole or some subset of units can be modeled under the Performance Path. Partners have also asked what HERS Index should be assigned to units that are not modeled, if it is acceptable to not model each unit.
				Response: [Issue under review.]
00017	07/25/2011	Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 03)	Issue Under Review	Use of infrared thermography
				Issue: Partners have asked if infrared thermography can be used to complete the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist.
				Response: [Issue under review.]
00054	07/25/2011	HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 03)	Issue Under Review	Item 1.2.9 – Sizing requirements for heat pumps in cold climates
				Issue: Partners have asked whether the listed total cooling capacity limits noted in Item 1.2.9 contain exemptions for heat pump systems in cold climates, as these systems are typically sized to the heating load.
				Resolution: [Issue under review]
00056	07/25/2011	HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 03)	Issue Under Review	Item 2.8 – Position of bedroom doors during pressure balancing test
				Issue: Partners have asked EPA to clarify what position bedroom doors should be in when conducting the pressure balancing diagnostic test.
				Resolution: [Issue under review]
00078	07/25/2011	Water Management System Builder Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 03)	Issue Under Review	Item 3.2 – Gutters and downspouts
				Issue: Partners have requested that EPA allow alternatives to gutters and downspouts where a complete drainage system consistent with the International Residential Code (e.g., sloped sod with sand and swales) has been provided.
				Resolution: [Issue under review]