

**Version Tracking Document for
ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Program Requirements for the State of Florida, Revision 03
1/15/2012**

In the time since the Version 3 and 3.1 ENERGY STAR New Homes guidelines for the state of Florida were released, EPA has modified, clarified and refined various aspects of the program documents. This document is a summary of these edits. EPA has also posted the revised program documents, labeled (Rev. 03) on its Web site at www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidelines.

All revisions are categorized as a Change, Clarification, or Refinement. 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, ICC 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.

Florida ENERGY STAR Version 3 Guidelines

1. Clarification – Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements

A section has been added to clarify the partnership, training, and credentialing requirements for builders, Raters, and HVAC contractors working on ENERGY STAR qualified homes. This new section appears after the “ENERGY STAR Performance Path” section and reads as follows:

“Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements

Builders, Raters, and HVAC contractors must meet the following requirements prior to qualifying homes under these guidelines:

- Builders are required to be ENERGY STAR partners and complete the online Version 3 Builder Orientation. Partnership Agreements and Version 3 Builder Orientation can be found at www.energystar.gov/homesPA.
- HVAC contractors must be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO). An explanation of this process and links to H-QUITOs can be found at www.energystar.gov/newhomesHVAC.
- Raters and Field Inspectors are required to complete Version 3 Training which can be found at www.resnet.us/energystar.”

2. Change – Exhibit 1: Florida Builder Option Package – Windows

To resolve the conflicting requirements for the performance of windows and skylights, the first sentence of Footnote 9 will be removed and Footnote 17 will be revised as follows: “For Prescriptive Path: Homes qualified under this version of the guidelines are not required to comply with Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist Item 1.1, which states that fenestration shall meet or exceed ENERGY STAR requirements. Raters are permitted to mark ‘N/A’ for this Checklist Item.”

3. Refinement – Exhibit 1: Florida Builder Option Package – Lighting & Appliances

To align with the terminology now used to describe ENERGY STAR qualified lighting products, the lighting requirement in the Florida Builder Option Package has been revised as follows: “Advanced Lighting Package (ALP) or ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs or fixtures shall be installed in 60% of RESNET-defined Qualifying Light Fixture Locations”

4. **Change – Exhibit 1: Florida Builder Option Package – Total duct leakage, Footnote 13**

To address partners' difficulties meeting the total duct leakage limit, the Total duct leakage limit in the Ductwork section of Exhibit 1 has been revised as follows: "Total duct leakage \leq 8 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned area."

Footnote 12 has been shortened to only include guidance related to duct leakage testing protocols: "Duct leakage shall be determined and documented by a Rater using a RESNET-approved testing protocol only after all components of the system have been installed (e.g., air handler and register grilles). Leakage limits shall be assessed on a per-system, rather than per-home, basis."

Remaining guidance related to testing duct leakage to the outside has been consolidated in Footnote 13, which now reads as follows:

"For homes that have \leq 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, measured duct leakage to outdoors shall be \leq 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area. Testing of duct leakage to the outside can be waived if all ducts & air handling equipment are located within the home's air and thermal barriers AND envelope leakage has been tested to be less than or equal to half of the Prescriptive Path infiltration limit for the Climate Zone where the home is to be built. Alternatively, testing of duct leakage to the outside can be waived if total duct leakage is \leq 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, or \leq 5 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area for homes that have less than 1,200 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area."

5. **Clarification – Footnote 5**

If a conflict with code or other external guidelines prevents a home from including an energy efficiency feature required by the Inspection Checklists, that feature cannot be used to help the home meet its ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target under the Performance Path. If modeling the home as it will be built, without the efficiency feature, causes it to fail, then additional upgrades must be used to compensate for the missing feature. To clarify this, Footnote 5 has been revised as follows:

- a. "In cases where the overlapping requirements exceed the ENERGY STAR guidelines, these overlapping requirements shall be met;
- b. "In cases where overlapping requirements conflict with a requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these guidelines shall not be met. Qualification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the intent of the conflicting requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that, under the Performance Path, a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement."

6. **Clarification – Footnote 7d**

To clarify that Inspection Checklist Item 4.1 defines minimum insulation levels that must be achieved specifically at the interior face of the exterior wall and not throughout the attic, Footnote 7d has been revised as follows: "...Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, Items 4.1 through 4.3 of the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist shall be met regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated..."

Florida ENERGY STAR Version 3.1 Guidelines

7. **Clarification – Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements**

A section has been added to clarify the partnership, training, and credentialing requirements for builders, Raters, and HVAC contractors working on ENERGY STAR qualified homes. This new section appears after the "ENERGY STAR Performance Path" section and reads as follows:

"Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements

Builders, Raters, and HVAC contractors must meet the following requirements prior to qualifying homes under these guidelines:

- Builders are required to be ENERGY STAR partners and complete the online Version 3 Builder Orientation. Partnership Agreements and Version 3 Builder Orientation can be found at www.energystar.gov/homesPA.
- HVAC contractors must be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO). An explanation of this process and links to H-QUITOs can be found at www.energystar.gov/newhomesHVAC.
- Raters and Field Inspectors are required to complete Version 3 Training which can be found at www.resnet.us/energystar.”

8. **Refinement – Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design – Lighting & Appliances**

To align with the terminology now used to describe ENERGY STAR qualified lighting products, the lighting requirement in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design has been revised as follows: “ENERGY STAR qualified light bulbs or fixtures shall be installed in 80% of RESNET-defined Qualifying Light Fixture Locations.”

9. **Change – Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design – Total Duct Leakage, Footnote 22**

To address partners’ difficulties meeting the total duct leakage limit, the Total duct leakage limit in the Thermostat & Ductwork section of Exhibit 1 has been revised as follows: “Total duct leakage \leq 8 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA.” Additionally, because the total duct leakage threshold will now be the same for all homes, Footnote 22 has been removed.

10. **Clarification – Footnote 5**

If a conflict with code or other external guidelines prevents a home from including an energy efficiency feature required by the Inspection Checklists, that feature cannot be used to help the home meet its ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target under the Performance Path. If modeling the home as it will be built, without the efficiency feature, causes it to fail, then additional upgrades must be used to compensate for the missing feature. To clarify this, Footnote 5 has been revised as follows:

- c. “In cases where the overlapping requirements exceed the ENERGY STAR guidelines, these overlapping requirements shall be met;
- d. “In cases where overlapping requirements conflict with a requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these guidelines shall not be met. Qualification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the intent of the conflicting requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that, under the Performance Path, a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”

11. **Clarification – Footnote 10d**

To clarify that Inspection Checklist Item 4.1 defines minimum insulation levels that must be achieved specifically at the interior face of the exterior wall and not throughout the attic, Footnote 10d has been revised as follows: “...Also, note that while ceiling and slab insulation can be included in trade-off calculations, Items 4.1 through 4.3 of the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist shall be met regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated...”