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Highlights from Version 3, Revision 06

Revision 06 of the Version 3 guidelines has now been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](http://www.energystar.gov). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, at their discretion, but must apply this Revision to all homes permitted on or after September 10, 2012.

As part of this Revision, all major program documents have been updated. A Revision 06 Version Tracking Document, containing all of the specific changes in this Revision, has also been created. EPA strongly encourages partners to review these documents. The most substantial updates are summarized below:

National Program Requirements

- Raters working under an accredited Sampling Provider are now permitted to apply the applicable sampling protocol to any Checklist Item that has a checkbox option to be "Rater Verified"

Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

- The exemption for 24" on-center spacing for reduced thermal bridging has been replaced with an alternate compliance path that requires that wall cavity insulation achieve at least R-20.
- The exemption in Footnote 12 which allows up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface to be exempt from the reduced thermal bridging requirements is applicable to individual multi-family units and not the entire exterior wall surface area of the multi-family building.

HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist

- Raters are now permitted, as an alternative to the HVAC contractor, to measure the airflow out of each supply and return register; to document the values on the contractor-prepared balancing report; and to verify that the measured values are within the accepted tolerance relative to the design value.
- Both Footnotes 5 and 6 have been modified to further clarify that only a credentialed HVAC Contractor may complete sections 6 through 12 while either the builder (or a firm or HERS Rater hired by the builder) or the credentialed HVAC contractor (or a firm or HERS Rater hired by the credentialed contractor) are permitted to complete Sections 1 through 5.

HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist

- The checkbox on the Inspection Checklists which requires Raters to verify that the HVAC contractor holds the credentials necessary to complete the HVAC System QI Contractor Checklist has been moved to Section 1 to ensure Raters consistently verify these credentials. Additionally, the associated Footnote has been revised to clarify that the Rater must confirm that the contractor holds the necessary credentials if any item in Section 6 through 12 of the HVAC System QI Contractor is complete.
- For balanced ventilation ducts that are not connected to space heating or cooling systems, a Rater is permitted to visually verify, in lieu of duct leakage testing, that all seams and connections are sealed with mastic or metal tape and all duct boots are sealed to floor, wall, or ceiling using caulk, foam, or mastic tape.
- The intermittent kitchen exhaust fan flow rates have been revised to better indicate there are two performance thresholds that need to be met, depending on fan type.
- Duct leakage testing must occur when the duct system is in its final state, which is to say after all components of the system have been installed including the air handler, the condenser, the ductwork, the duct boots, and the register grilles atop the finished surface (e.g., drywall, carpeting, flooring).