

Dear Energy Star,

The standards in recognition criteria 3 table would be an impediment when applying passive solar design principles. To control summer heat load in all climate zones the SHGC should be small on east and west facing windows. The SHGC should be high on south facing windows, even in southern climates. For south facing windows in southern US the amount of sunlight hitting a south wall will be about 25% of the winter solar loads. On south walls during the summer solar loads could be further reduced by shades, plants, and overhangs. The US uses about 4 times more energy for heating than for cooling. Using orientation and proper glazing is a low cost method of saving energy.

The Energy Star web site could be an effective tool for educating the public on these simple solar design principles.

Sincerely,

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