



## Highlights from Revision 13 of the Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Caribbean and Pacific Programs

Revision 13 of the Caribbean SFNH Program Requirements and Pacific SFNH Program Requirements has been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](http://www.energystar.gov). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, but must apply it to all homes permitted on or after Jan. 01, 2025. The [Current Policy Record](#) contains all specific changes in this Revision. EPA strongly encourages partners to review these documents. A summary of the most substantial updates is below:

### Multiple Program Documents

- A requirement to inspect each home has been added to the Certification Process Section of the Caribbean and the Pacific Program Requirements and the Footnotes of the Caribbean and Pacific (C&P) Rater Design Review Checklist and C&P Rater Field Checklist to reflect the sunset of sampling inspection protocols in the SFNH program for permits on or after 01/01/2025.
- The Certification Process Section of the Caribbean and the Pacific Program Requirements has been revised and a footnote has been added to the pre-drywall inspection date field of the C&P Rater Field Checklist to reinforce that, if drywall will be installed, a pre-drywall inspection is always required; that drywall must be entirely removed to fully verify all Items if it is installed prior to the inspection; and that the use of a Sampled Rating on a home that has missed the inspection is not acceptable.
- The process for determining solar fraction has been changed in the Caribbean and the Pacific Program Requirements, the C&P Rater Design Review Checklist, and C&P Rater Field Checklist. For homes with  $\leq 3$  bedrooms, the solar fraction shall be determined using the Low U.S. DOE Draw Pattern; otherwise, Medium shall be used. This will better ensure that the water heating system capacity is aligned with the hot water use of the home.
- An allowance has been added to the C&P Rater Field Checklist, National HVAC Design Report, and National HVAC Design Supplement to Std. 310: inlets providing outdoor air to a dwelling unit are permitted to be  $\geq 5$  ft., rather than 10 ft., from both exhaust dwelling unit mechanical ventilation systems and local mechanical exhaust systems.
- Item 2.1 of the C&P Rater Field Checklist and Section 2 of the National HVAC Design Report have been clarified: when designers provide multiple ventilation designs with more than one airflow rate, the Rater is required to assess the run-time setting of the installed system and use that to determine the corresponding design ventilation airflow rate. The Rater-measured ventilation rate then must fall within the program-specified tolerance relative to this rate.

### Caribbean Program Requirements and Pacific Program Requirements

- To reinforce the original intent of the program, the Eligibility Requirements Section has been revised to state that only detached dwellings (e.g., single-family homes and duplexes), as well as townhouses, are eligible to participate.
- A new program document has been referenced in the Eligibility Requirements Section that defines the applicable program requirements, including the minimum Version and Revision, to which a home is eligible to be certified. As a result, the Effective Date Section has been deleted.
- The Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements Section has been revised to clarify that Raters, rather than Energy Rating Companies (ERC's), must be credentialed by an HCO prior to completing inspections.
- To ensure more consistent implementation of the program, the allowance to use Provider discretion to define 'permit date' has been removed and a new alternative, based on the date of the Rater's first inspection, has been added.
- The Certification Process section has been revised to better convey that Raters are to verify that checklist items have been met within EPA-defined tolerances. Prior statements regarding verification may have incorrectly implied that Raters have the authority to interpret program intent, potentially leading to inconsistent implementation.
- For the Caribbean Program Requirements, it has been clarified in the Certification Process Section and Exhibit 1 that all prescriptive efficiency measures must be included in the home for it to be certified; no trade-offs are allowed.

### Caribbean & Pacific Rater Design Review Checklist

- Two new Items have been added to Section 1 to ensure that Raters verify that ERC's have signed a Partnership Agreement and that Raters have met training and credentialing requirements prior to completing inspections.
- Checklist items have been added to verify prescriptive efficiency measures related to ceiling fans, wall insulation, and mini-split HVAC efficiency to ensure they are not overlooked.
- Design review requirements that had been applicable in the Pacific have been removed. Version 3.2 of the Pacific Program Requirements requires the use of mini-splits for homes with  $\leq 50\%$  air-conditioned occupiable space, and mini-splits had already been exempted from such reviews in the Caribbean Program Requirements.
- Checklist items have been added to reflect new requirements of the Pacific Version 3.2 program requirements.



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#### **Caribbean & Pacific Rater Field Checklist**

- Checklist items have been added to verify prescriptive efficiency measures related to ceiling fans, wall insulation, LED lighting, and mini-split HVAC efficiency to ensure they are not overlooked.
- Heating and cooling equipment, bedroom pressure balancing, duct leakage, and filtration requirements that had been applicable in the Pacific have been removed. This reflects that Version 3.2 of the Pacific Program Requirements requires the use of mini-splits for homes with  $\leq 50\%$  air-conditioned occupiable space, and mini-splits had already been exempted from such requirements in the Caribbean Program Requirements.
- Checklist items have been added to reflect new requirements of the Pacific Version 3.2 program requirements.

#### **National Water Management System Builder Requirements**

- Item 4.2 has been revised to clarify that moisture-resistant backing materials for tub / shower enclosures are only required where backing is present. For example, backing is not required behind a 3-piece fiberglass tub enclosure.