



ENERGY STAR® RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS



Dear California Stakeholders,

In response to California's 2025 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (2025 Standards), the EPA proposed new versions of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program Requirements for California.

This email is to announce that the EPA has finalized these proposals and appreciates the feedback provided by program partners and other stakeholders. The final program documents, all comments submitted by stakeholders, and the EPA's responses to comments are posted on the [ENERGY STAR archives web page](#).

The new single-family version, SFNH California Version 3.5, will be required to be used for homes permitted on or after 1/1/2027 that are subject to the 2025 standards. The new multifamily version, MFNC Version 1.5, will be required to be used for buildings permitted on or after 1/1/2028 that are subject to the 2025 standards.

There are two primary changes to the performance targets in these new versions. The first is to update them to reference the 2025 Standards. The second is to align with the revised terminology used in the latest edition of the code, namely Long-Term System Cost (LSC) rather than Energy Design Rating (EDR). More specifically, the following performance targets are as follows:

- For the SFNH program, the following two options:
 1. An Efficiency LSC Compliance Margin \geq 10% above 2025 Standards, or,
 2. An Efficiency LSC \geq 5 points above 2025 Standards
- For the MFNC program, an Efficiency LSC Compliance Margin \geq 10% above 2025 Standards.

In addition, for the new version of the SFNH program, an infiltration backstop of 3.5 ACH50 has been added, with an alternative of 0.30 CFM50 per sq. ft. of dwelling unit enclosure area for dwellings \leq 1,500 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, townhouses, and attached dwelling units. Relative to the proposal, the only change that has been made is to provide a phase-in period for the more stringent infiltration backstop of 3.5 ACH50. For homes permitted before 1/1/2027 and certified to California Version 3.5, the leakage limit has been increased to 4.5 ACH50.

All other mandatory features (i.e., the national program checklists) remain unchanged relative to the current program requirements in California.

Please feel free to forward this information to other interested stakeholders working in the residential new construction market in California.

Best Regards,
ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Team

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