

Current ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes Policy Record

How to Use This Document

EPA regularly receives partner questions and comments regarding various aspects of the program documents. This document is a record of the issues that have been received since the release of the last revision to the program documents. These issues are either pending resolution by EPA or have been resolved, sometimes resulting in modifications that will be incorporated into the next revision of the program documents. The primary purpose of this document is to allow all partners to have equal access to the latest policy issues and resolutions.

EPA intends to formally incorporate policy modifications into the next revision of the program documents. Those edits will then be enforced for homes permitted after a specified transition period, typically 60 days from the release of the revised program requirements. Partners may, at their discretion, use the determinations in this document immediately, in advance of the formal implementation dates. If they do so, they should be sure to document the permit dates of the affected homes and to include a copy of the policy record in the files retained by the Home Energy Rater. Should the need arise, this will allow partners to demonstrate that they acted with the best information available.

Definitions

Each issue listed here is classified as a Change, Clarification, Refinement, Comment, or as an Issue Under Review. 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 from changes in relevant standards (e.g., ENERGY STAR labeled product requirements, NAECA standards, IECC 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.
- **Comment** – A comment provided by EPA in response to a question, which results in no change to the program documents. This may occur, for example, if the question can be answered by referring to already established policy. Aside from the partner asking the question, such comments will typically have no impact on the way that partners comply with the program.
- **Issue Under Review** – An issue that has been submitted and that EPA is still evaluating. Once EPA has evaluated the issue, it will offer a resolution and reclassify the issue using one of the four categories above.

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ID	Log Date	Program Document	Classification	Topic
01392	01/15/2025	All National and Regional Program Documents (Rev. 13)	Refinement	References updated from “EPA” to “The EPA”
				Issue: The EPA has recently released a new style guide, which includes guidance on language to use in official program documents. To ensure the language in these documents is more consistent, the new style guide includes an update on the way the EPA is referenced when it is the subject of the sentence, requiring all documents to use the phrasing “the EPA” instead of the previous language, “EPA.”
				Resolution: To make the program documents’ language consistent, all program documents will be updated to use “the EPA” when referencing the EPA (e.g. “The EPA recommends...” instead of “EPA recommends ...”).
01393	01/15/2025	All National and Regional Program Documents (Rev. 13)	Refinement	References to National Version 3 removed
				Issue: The EPA announced a transition schedule to advance the minimum program requirements to Single-Family New Homes (SNFH) National Version 3.1 in states where SFNH National Version 3 was still in effect, beginning with homes permitted on January 1, 2023. As a result, homes permitted after this date are no longer eligible to be certified using Version 3 of the SFNH National Program Requirements and references to this version in the mandatory requirements (e.g., National Rater Field Checklist) are no longer applicable.
				Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, all documents containing the mandatory requirements for the national program (e.g., National Rater Field Checklist), will be updated by removing Version 3 from the header (e.g., National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3+3.1 / 3.2). In addition, all program documents that reference these mandatory requirements will be updated to use the revised names.
01406	01/15/2025	All National and Regional Program Documents	Refinement	Reference to Version 3.3 added in program document name
				Issue: Version 3.3 of the National Program Requirements has been released, which utilizes the same mandatory requirements (i.e., checklists and builder requirements) as earlier versions of the program. Therefore, the header of these documents containing the mandatory requirements need to be updated to include a reference to Version 3.3 of the program. In

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				<p>addition, all program documents that reference these documents containing the mandatory requirements also need to be updated.</p> <p>Resolution: All documents containing the mandatory requirements for the national program (i.e., checklists and builder requirements), will be updated to include Version 3.3 in the header (e.g., National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2 / <u>3.3</u>). In addition, all program documents that reference these documents containing the mandatory requirements will be updated to use the revised names. In addition, all program documents that reference these mandatory requirements will be updated to use the revised names.</p>
01376	01/15/2025	All National and Regional Program Documents (Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Replacement of the term “Gut Rehabilitation” with “Substantial Reconstruction and Rehabilitation”</p> <p>Issue: ENERGY STAR program documents refer to “gut rehabilitation” to describe existing home eligibility, alternatives, and exemptions. “Gut rehabilitation” is not a defined term in code or reference standards, and the Section 45L tax credit uses a different phrase with the same meaning: “substantial reconstruction and rehabilitation”.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology and reduce potential confusion, the EPA will replace all references to the term “Gut Rehabilitation” in all program documents with the term “substantial reconstruction and rehabilitation.”</p>
01396	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be</p>

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				<p>satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01382	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements, (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p> <p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“National Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01368	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 – Exhibit, and language preceding it, updated for clarify</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is used to determine the ERI target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, a home that is configured with them will,</p>

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		(Version 3.1, Rev. 13)		<p>by definition, achieve an ERI score very close to the target. Therefore, the exhibit is helpful for conveying to partners the types of measures they may choose to include in a certified home. For example, if a home uses a feature less efficient than one in the exhibit, then another feature that is more efficient than the exhibit will have to be selected to compensate.</p> <p>However, the language that precedes the table, as well as the table itself, could be revised to better convey this intent and improve their clarity and consistency.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To better convey the intent of Exhibit 1, and in particular emphasize that it is not mandatory to include the features contained within, the language preceding the table will be updated as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home <u>Summary</u>”¹⁰</p> <p>The ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home is the set of efficiency features modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for each home pursuing certification. The following table summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, therefore, while the features below are not mandatory if they are not used then other measures of equivalent efficiency will be needed to achieve the ENERGY STAR ERI Target.</p> <p>In addition, note that the Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, Exhibit 2, contain additional requirements such as total duct leakage limits, minimum allowed insulation levels, and minimum allowed fenestration performance. Therefore, the EPA recommends that partners review the documents in Exhibit 2 prior to selecting measures.”</p> <p>In addition, the table in Exhibit 1 will be reformatted and refined for improved clarity and consistency.</p>
01357	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev.13)	Clarification	<p>Exhibit 1 – Energy efficiency metrics updated to UEF, SEER2, and HSPF2</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 currently specifies cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment efficiency using the outdated metrics of SEER, HSPF, and EF. While this aligns with the corresponding ENERGY STAR ERI Target Procedure, it may cause confusion as partners specify and model equipment using the new metrics of SEER2, HSPF2, and UEF.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: For improved clarity, the efficiency of cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment will be updated to the latest rating metrics. Note that this is purely informative, because Exhibit 1 does not contain mandatory requirements and the corresponding ERI Target Procedure that determines the performance target will not change.</p> <p>In addition to updating the efficiency values, the beginning of Footnote 10 will be revised as follows: “While the corresponding ERI Target Procedure specifies air conditioners and heat pumps using SEER and HSPF, in this document they have been converted to the current rating metrics, SEER2 and HSPF2, assuming a ducted split system. Similarly, while water heaters have been specified using Energy Factor (EF), in this document they have been converted to Uniform Energy Factor (UEF). Note that the efficiency levels of ENERGY STAR certified products aligned with these product specifications when this Version was first released..”</p>
01347	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Change	Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA is proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01394	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements	Clarification	Eligibility Requirements Section – Dwellings with two Dwelling Units may be certified as either a Dwelling or as individual Dwelling Units
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked whether a Dwelling with two Dwelling Units must be certified as a single Dwelling or as individual Dwelling Units. Furthermore, if the individual Dwelling Units are</p>

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		<p>(Version 3.2, Rev. 13)</p>		<p>to be certified, partners have asked whether both of them must be certified or if it would be permissible to only certify one of them.</p> <p>Examples of such a scenario include a detached single-family home with an attached Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) or a duplex.</p> <p>Per the program eligibility requirements, both Dwellings and individual Dwelling Units are eligible to be certified, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 and quoted below:</p> <p>Dwelling: Any building that contains one or two Dwelling Units used, intended, or designed to be built, used, rented, leased, let or hired out to be occupied, or that are occupied for living purposes.</p> <p>Dwelling Units: A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.</p> <hr/> <p>Resolution: The ENERGY STAR program does not have explicit requirements that address whether a Dwelling with two Dwelling Units must be certified as a single Dwelling or as individual Dwelling Units. Either approach would result in homes that meet all program requirements. The essential consideration is whether the individual dwelling units can be uniquely identified (e.g., with a unique unit number, mailing address, etc). If so, then either approach is acceptable as long as the documentation clearly reflects whether it is the dwelling as a whole or the individual dwelling unit(s) that are certified; and that this distinction is applied consistently throughout the certification process.</p> <p>If certified as two separate dwelling units, the energy models, program records, registrations with the HCO, and ENERGY STAR certificates must be maintained separately for each unit and distinguish between the two units. For example, separate Rater checklists and infiltration tests must be completed for each unit.</p> <p>If certified as a single dwelling, the energy model, program records, registration, and certificate must represent the entire structure. For example, in this scenario a single set of Rater checklists and one infiltration test must be completed.</p> <p>Finally, if the project is certified as individual dwelling units rather than a dwelling, the EPA recommends, but does not require, that both dwelling units be certified.</p>
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01397	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01383	01/15/2025		Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p>

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		National Program Requirements, (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)		<p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows: “National Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01369	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 – Exhibit, and language preceding it, updated for clarify</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is used to determine the ERI target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, a home that is configured with them will, by definition, achieve an ERI score very close to the target. Therefore, the exhibit is helpful for conveying to partners the types of measures they may choose to include in a certified home. For example, if a home uses a feature less efficient than one in the exhibit, then another feature that is more efficient than the exhibit will have to be selected to compensate.</p> <p>However, the language that precedes the table, as well as the table itself, could be revised to better convey this intent and improve their clarity and consistency.</p> <p>Resolution: To better convey the intent of Exhibit 1, and in particular emphasize that it is not mandatory to include the features contained within, the language preceding the table will be updated as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home Summary”¹⁰</p> <p><u>The ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home is the set of efficiency features modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for each home pursuing certification. The following table summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these</u></p>

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				<p><u>measures.</u> Therefore, while the features below are not mandatory if they are not used then other measures <u>of equivalent efficiency</u> will be needed to achieve the ENERGY STAR ERI Target.</p> <p>In addition, note that the Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, Exhibit 2, contain additional requirements such as total duct leakage limits, minimum allowed insulation levels, and minimum allowed fenestration performance. Therefore, the EPA recommends that partners review the documents in Exhibit 2 prior to selecting measures.”</p> <p>In addition, the table in Exhibit 1 will be reformatted and refined for improved clarity and consistency.</p>
01358	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev.13)	Clarification	<p>Exhibit 1 – Energy efficiency metrics updated to SEER2 and HSPF2</p>
				<p>Issue: Exhibit 1 currently specifies cooling equipment and heating equipment efficiency using the outdated metrics of SEER and HSPF. While this aligns with the corresponding ENERGY STAR ERI Target Procedure, it may cause confusion as partners specify and model equipment using the new metrics of SEER2 and HSPF2.</p>
				<p>Resolution: For improved clarity, the efficiency of cooling equipment and heating equipment will be updated to the latest rating metrics. Note that this is purely informative, because Exhibit 1 does not contain mandatory requirements and the corresponding ERI Target Procedure that determines the performance target will not change.</p> <p>In addition to updating the efficiency values, the beginning of Footnote 10 will be revised as follows: “<u>While the corresponding ERI Target Procedure specifies air conditioners and heat pumps using SEER and HSPF, in this document they have been converted to the current rating metrics, SEER2 and HSPF2, assuming a ducted split system.</u> Note that the efficiency levels of ENERGY STAR certified products aligned with these product specifications when this Version was first released..”</p>
01348	01/15/2025	National Program Requirements	Change	<p>Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p>
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder</p>

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		(Version 3.2, Rev. 13)		<p>Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01366	01/15/2025	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Item 2.1 – Narrow scope to address only SHGC, not U-value; limit SHGC requirement to CZ 1-3, 4A, and 4B</p> <p>Issue: This item defines both U-value and SHGC requirements for fenestration. At the inception of Version 3.0, a separate item (now Item 3.1) defined insulation requirements for the remainder of the enclosure (i.e., ceilings, floors, and walls). The U-value of the fenestration had no impact on compliance with Item 3.1 when using the total UA approach.</p> <p>With Revision 08, the requirement in Item 3.1 was modified to include fenestration in the calculation of total UA. As a result, the U-value of fenestration is now assessed twice – in Item 2.1 to ensure that it meets the component fenestration requirements in code and in Item 3.1 to ensure that the overall enclosure meets the total UA requirements in code.</p> <p>Separately, some partners have encountered challenges meeting the SHGC requirement of Item 2.1 for homes certified using National v3.2 in CZ 5. Homes certified using this version must meet a SHGC of ≤ 0.40 in CZ 4C / 5, per Table 402.1.2 of the 2021 IECC. In codes prior to the 2021 IECC, as well as in the 2024 IECC, there is no SHGC requirement defined for CZ 4C / 5. Therefore, just for National Version 3.2, homes that intentionally incorporate fenestration with high SHGC (e.g., to increase solar gain in a cold climate) may be prevented from being certified.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the program requirements while maintaining the same overall goal for a high-performing thermal enclosure, Item 2.1 will be revised to only address SHGC. With this change, the U-value of the fenestration will only be assessed as part of Item 3.1.</p>

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				<p>To eliminate the potential roadblock to certification for homes in CZ 4C and 5, the SHGC requirement in Item 2.1 will be limited to CZ 1-3, 4A, and 4B (excluding 4C-8). In practice, this will only eliminate the SHGC requirement in CZ 4C / 5 for National v3.2.</p> <p>Finally, now that Section 2 and 3 each contain a single item, these will be combined into a single section, titled “High-Performance Insulation & Fenestration”.</p> <p>As a result of these changes, Item 2.1 will be revised as follows and renumbered as Item 2.2:</p> <p>“In CZ 1-3, 4A, and 4B, specified windows, skylights, and doors that are $\geq 50\%$ glazed achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all Versions except those noted below: Area-weighted average SHGC \leq 2009 IECC Table 402.1.1 • For National Version 3.2: Area-weighted average SHGC \leq 2021 IECC Table 402.1.2” <p>To accompany this change, Item 3.1 will be renumbered as Item 2.1 and Footnote 6 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“For all versions except National v3.2, all windows, doors and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.1. For National v3.2, all windows, doors and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements in 2021 IECC Table 402.1.2.</p> <p>If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from Tables 4 and 10, respectively, in 2013 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 15. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An area weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements; b. An area weighted average of fenestration products $\geq 50\%$ glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements; c. 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from <u>the</u> area-weighted averages calculated in <u>Item 2.1 and 2.2 using a) and b), above;</u>
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				<p>d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from <u>the</u> area-weighted averages calculated in <u>Item 2.1 using a) and b), above;</u></p> <p>e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from <u>the</u> area-weighted averages calculated in <u>Item 2.1 and 2.2 using a) and b), above.</u> Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true South and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity > 20 btu / ft³x°F and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of South facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2 in. thick.</p> <p>f. In Phius or PHI certified homes, where triple-glazed window assemblies with thermal breaks / spacers between the panes are used, such windows meet the intent of Item 2.1 and 2.2 and shall be excluded from the area-weighted averages calculated when assessing compliance of a) through e), above.</p>
01356	01/15/2025	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Addition of new section and item recommending the review of reduced thermal bridging details at the design stage</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to add a new section and item to the end of this checklist. This new item will recommend, but not require, that Raters review the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist and identify which strategies, if any, are intended to be used in the home to be certified.</p> <p>This will highlight these details earlier in the certification process than is done in the current revision of the program documents. Furthermore, as additional training and guidance materials on this topic are developed, they can be referenced by this checklist item.</p> <p>Resolution: This new section will be called, “Additional Construction Document Review – Recommended, but not required” and the new item will read as follows:</p> <p>“Rater has reviewed the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist and identified which strategies, if any, are intended to be used in the home to be certified.”</p> <p>To accompany this item, a new footnote will be added as follows:</p>

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				<p>“Reduced thermal bridging strategies, while not mandatory, will improve the comfort and efficiency of a home and help meet the ENERGY STAR ERI Target or equivalent performance target, as well as the thermal backstop in Item 2.1. The EPA recommends, but does not require, that builders include selected details on plans to ensure proper implementation during construction.”</p> <p>In addition, the last sentence in Footnote 8 and Footnotes 9 and 10 will be deleted, as the reduced thermal bridging details are no longer mandatory.</p>
01365	01/15/2025	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Item 3.1 – Reformatted to improve clarity and accommodate future versions</p>
				<p>Issue: Policy Record Entry #01367 outlines changes to item 3.1 including merging with Item 2.1 into a single “High-Performance Insulation & Fenestration” section. To accompany this change, the EPA is preparing the program documents to accommodate future versions of the program.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Item 3.1 is being reformatted and edited for improved clarity and to accommodate future versions of the program. The revised language is as follows:</p> <p>“Specified total building thermal envelope achieves the following: ^{6, 7, 8}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all Versions except those noted below: ≤ 100% of the total UA per 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 • For National Version 3.2: ≤ 100% of the total UA per 2021 IECC Table 402.1.2”
01394	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Specification of on-site photos to be captured by the rater</p>
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding quality assurance and quality control enhancements to the ENERGY STAR Certification System, the EPA will be proceeding with a requirement for Raters to capture a new set of photos covering key ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes program requirements, in addition to the minimum rated features that Raters are already required to photograph according to ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 Normative Appendix B.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To indicate which photos the Rater is required to capture, a camera icon will be added (📷) next to a “Rater Verified” checkbox for the following checklist items: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 4.7, 4.10, 6.2, 8.1 and 8.2.</p>

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				<p>To reinforce the photos and/or test result reports that Raters are already required to capture according to ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 Normative Appendix B, a camera icon will be added for the following checklist items: 1.2, 1.3, 5a.1, 5b.1, 6.4, 6.5, 7.1, and the infiltration backstop detailed in Policy Record Entry 01364</p> <p>In addition, a new checkbox with the caption “Photo of Rater” will be added next to each inspection date and signature row to indicate the requirement for a Rater “selfie” photo at each inspection.</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to the Rater Verified column header as follows:</p> <p>“Where indicated by a camera icon (📷) next to a “Rater Verified” checkbox, the Rater is required to capture at least one photo per item during their inspection as a representative example of the installed strategy used to meet the applicable program requirement. For items involving one or more performance tests (e.g., pressure differential at multiple bedrooms), the Rater must capture a photo of each recorded test result or a report generated by automated software that communicates with the testing device showing the test result. Photos are not required for non-applicable items marked “N/A.”</p> <p>At each inspection (i.e., pre-drywall and final), the Rater is required to capture at least one geo-tagged and time-stamped photo of themselves in front of the dwelling unit. It is recommended, but not required, for the other photos to also be geotagged and timestamped.</p> <p>In addition to the photos and test results specified above, the Rater must capture all photos required by the on-site inspection protocols in Normative Appendix B of ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301.”</p>
01374	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Section 1 through 4 – Classification of builder verified items and reduction of total allotment from eight to five</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to classify each checklist item in Section 1 through 4 as one</p>

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				<p>that cannot be builder verified, one that can be partially builder verified, or one that can be fully builder verified.</p> <p>In addition, in concert with complementary proposals for the next Revision that will streamline the number of mandatory thermal enclosure details (e.g., elimination of the requirement for sill seal gaskets, insulated recessed light fixtures in certain ceiling assemblies, continuous top plates, advanced framing details in above-grade walls), the total allotment of builder-verified items will be reduced.</p> <p>Providing a limited number of allowances for builder verification is a long-standing pragmatic approach to address details difficult for the Rater to verify during their customary two site visits. The EPA believes these changes will maintain that construct while improving clarity and producing more consistent enforcement.</p> <hr/> <p>Resolution: As noted above, each checklist item in Section 1 through 4 will be classified as one that cannot be builder verified, one that can be partially builder verified, or one that can be fully builder verified. Each of the items that can be partially builder verified will be assigned a numerical limit as shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1.2 and 1.3: “Pre-rock + 50” - Up to 500 square feet of wall areas that have drywall installed prior to general installation of drywall (i.e., “pre-rock” areas such as walls behind tubs or staircases), plus an additional 50 square feet, may be builder verified. • Item 2.1 through 2.7: “50 sq. ft.” - Up to 50 square feet of area may be verified by the builder. • Item 4.1: “5 penetrations” - Up to five penetrations may be builder verified. <p>No limit will be placed on the amount of builder verification allowed for the following items: Item 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, and 4.8. The remaining items will not be permitted to be builder verified, including Item 1.1, the revised Section 3, Item 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, and 4.10.</p> <p>In addition, the total allotment of builder-verified items will be reduced from eight to five.</p> <p>The checklist items will be formatted accordingly, and Footnote 1 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“At the discretion of the Rater, the builder may verify up to eight <u>five</u> of the indicated Checklist items in Sections 1 – 4 of this Checklist. When this allowance is used for Items 1.2 or 1.3, a maximum of 10% of the total surface area of the non-adiabatic insulated assemblies are permitted to be builder verified; marked “Pre-rock + 50”, up to 500 sq. ft. of wall areas that have</p>
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				<p>drywall installed prior to general installation of drywall (i.e., “pre-rock” areas such as walls behind tubs or staircases), plus an additional 50 sq. ft., may be builder verified; when marked “50 sq. ft.”, up to 50 sq. ft. of area may be verified by the builder; and when marked “5 penetrations”, up to five penetrations may be builder verified. the remainder The remaining items and areas (i.e., all the applicable area other than what the builder verifies) must be visually verified on-site by the Rater or, for applicable minimum rated features, verified using an alternative on-site inspection protocol defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 (e.g., for slab insulation or continuous exterior wall insulation). When exercised, the builder’s responsibility will be formally acknowledged by the builder signing off on the checklist for the item(s) that they verified. However, if a quality assurance review indicates that Items have not been successfully completed, the Rater will be responsible for facilitating corrective action.”</p>
01367	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Item 1.1 and 1.2 – Item 1.1 relocated to Item 1.3, and editorial changes</p> <p>Issue: Policy Record #01365 outlines several changes to Item 2.1 of the National Rater Design Review Checklist, including relocating the item to after the total building thermal envelope requirement and renaming the section to “High-Performance Insulation & Fenestration”.</p> <p>Resolution: Item 1.1 and 1.2 will be edited to improve clarity and refer to the appropriate Items in the National Rater Design Review Checklist. Additionally, to align with the revised sequence of the checklist items in the National Rater Design Review Checklist, Item 1.1 of the National Rater Field Checklist will be relocated as Item 1.3 and the section header will be renamed as “High-Performance Insulation & Fenestration”.</p>
01373	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Item 1.3 - CMU block wall assemblies with Grade III insulation filling the cores are permitted to be used for homes permitted prior to 1/1/2026</p> <p>Issue: CMU blocks are commonly used to construct residential exterior walls in some parts of the country, such as Florida. One practice for insulating such walls is to fill the hollow cores, for example, by injecting spray foam through holes drilled into the side of the wall.</p> <p>A recently issued RESNET interpretation affirmed that core-filled CMU block wall assemblies are not explicitly addressed in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301. Furthermore, because it is not possible to visually inspect the insulation within such assemblies, they cannot achieve Grade I.</p> <p>While this interpretation removes prior ambiguity, the result is that CMU block walls with insulated cores currently cannot comply with the mandatory program requirement to achieve</p>

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				<p>Grade I. Consequently, homes using such assemblies have been abruptly left without a pathway to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: In the time since the interpretation was issued, standards bodies have been collaborating with industry on new inspection protocols that, if finalized, may allow such assemblies to achieve Grade I. However, additional time is required to complete this effort.</p> <p>To allow the process to continue without requiring partners pursuing certification to temporarily change insulation strategies, CMU block wall assemblies with Grade III insulation filling the cores will be permitted to be used in homes permitted prior to 1/1/2026. This new allowance will be added to Footnote 4 of the National Rater Field Checklist, as follows:</p> <p><u>“Two Three alternatives are provided: a) Grade II cavity insulation is permitted to be used for assemblies that contain a layer of continuous, air impermeable insulation \geq R-3 in Climate Zones 1 to 4, \geq R-5 in Climate Zones 5 to 8; 8 b) Grade II batts are permitted to be used in floors if they fill the full width and depth of the floor cavity, even when compression occurs due to excess insulation, as long as the R-value of the batts has been appropriately assessed based on manufacturer guidance and the only defect preventing the insulation from achieving Grade I is the compression caused by the excess insulation; c) <u>CMU block wall assemblies with Grade III insulation filling the cores are permitted to be used in homes permitted prior to 1/1/26, to provide an opportunity for standards bodies to consider a protocol that may allow such assemblies to achieve Grade I.</u>”</u></p> <p>If the effort is successful, homes permitted after this date using this assembly type will be required to use the new protocol to achieve Grade I. If the effort is not successful, then builders will have to select an alternative insulation strategy that does achieve Grade I.</p>
01355	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Section 3 – Conversion of reduced thermal bridging details from mandatory features to details that must be assessed</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p>

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				<p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, advanced framing or an alternative strategy for above-grade walls, nor meet minimum insulation levels at attic edges, access points, and under attic platforms. However, homes without such features will have to compensate with others to achieve the same ENERGY STAR ERI target and thermal enclosure backstop.</p> <p>This will result in a simpler and more accommodating program, while achieving the same overarching goals of delivering efficient homes with high-performing enclosures.</p> <p>Resolution: In addition to editorial changes and resequencing of checklist items, the following key changes will be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The addition of a sentence to the section header, and an associated footnote to explain its revised purpose. • Conversion of Item 3.1, which currently defines minimum insulation levels that must be met at attic edges, to a requirement that insulated ceilings be assessed at the attic edge for variance in R-value and installation quality. • Conversion of Item 3.2, which currently defines minimum insulation levels in CZ 4-8 that must be met at slab edges, to a requirement that slabs be assessed for insulation where walls separate conditioned from unconditioned space. • Conversion of Item 3.3, which currently defines minimum insulation levels that must be met beneath attic platforms, to a requirement that insulation be assessed beneath attic platforms and walkways for variance in R-value and installation quality. • Conversion of Item 3.4, which currently defines a variety of strategies for reducing thermal bridging in above-grade walls, to a requirement that above-grade walls separating conditioned from unconditioned space be assessed for advanced framing. • The addition of an item that requires attic access panels, drop-down stairs, & whole-house fans to be assessed for insulated covers. This requirement previously resided in Item 4.10 as part of an air sealing requirement, but is clearer when grouped with the assessment of other reduced thermal bridging details. • The deletion of associated footnotes, including Footnote 14 through 26. <p>For quality assurance purposes, partners wishing to use the significant simplifications in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist that are detailed in this Policy Record entry must certify the home using Rev. 14 of the National Rater Field Checklist in its entirety.</p> <p>For example, Item 3.3 (which will be renumbered to Item 3.2 in Rev. 14) requires that the insulation beneath attic platforms meet a minimum insulation level, while in Rev. 14 this will be changed to an assessment of that insulation level. For a partner wishing to forego the</p>
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				mandatory minimum insulation requirement, per Rev. 14, any reduced insulation level beneath the platform must be accounted for in the energy model and Rev. 14 of the National Rater Field Checklist must be completed in its entirety.
01364	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	Section 4 - Streamlining of air sealing details and addition of infiltration backstop
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to streamline the program’s mandatory air sealing details and add a new infiltration backstop.</p> <p>The simplified list of details will ensure that every certified home has been inspected during the construction process for sealing at standardized locations, while making the certification process more predictable. The addition of an infiltration backstop, or maximum leakage rate, that a certified home must not exceed, will objectively demonstrate that the home is reasonably tight at the end of the construction process.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In addition to editorial changes, updated formatting, and resequencing of checklist items, the following key changes will be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of the requirement in Item 4.2 to insulate recessed lighting fixtures and the requirement in Item 4.10 to insulate attic access panels, drop-down stairs, and whole-house fans, as these are not air sealing requirements. • Elimination of the requirement in Item 4.3 to install a gasket between sill plates and concrete or masonry foundations and the requirement in Item 4.4 to use a continuous top plate or blocking at the top of walls. • Removal of two exemptions related to stucco cladding systems contained in Footnote 28 and 29. • For improved clarity, rewording of the requirement in Item 4.8 to seal fire-rated area separation walls. • The elimination of Footnote 27 and 30, which related to requirements that have now been removed. • Grouping of the remaining mandatory air sealing details under a new item, Item 4.1. • The addition of a new item, Item 4.2, that contains the new infiltration ‘backstop’ – the maximum leakage rate allowed for certified homes. For most homes, the following limits will apply:

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				<table border="1"> <tr> <td>For all Versions except those noted below:</td> <td>≤ 4.5 ACH50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>For National v3.2 and CA v3.4:</td> <td>≤ 4.0 ACH50</td> </tr> </table> <p>However, an alternative metric and limit of ≤ 0.30 CFM50 per sq ft. of dwelling unit compartmentalization boundary area will be added for a dwelling with ≤ 1,500 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area, a townhouse, or an attached dwelling unit.</p> <p>For quality assurance purposes, partners wishing to use the significant simplifications in Section 4 of the National Rater Field Checklist that are detailed in this Policy Record entry must certify the home using Rev. 14 of the National Rater Field Checklist in its entirety.</p> <p>For example, Item 4.4 requires the use of continuous top plates or blocking at the top of walls adjoining unconditioned space, while in Rev. 14 this will be eliminated in exchange for an infiltration limit. For a partner wishing to forego the mandatory air sealing requirement, per Rev. 14, the applicable infiltration limit must be met and Rev. 14 of the National Rater Field Checklist must be completed in its entirety.</p>	For all Versions except those noted below:	≤ 4.5 ACH50	For National v3.2 and CA v3.4:	≤ 4.0 ACH50
For all Versions except those noted below:	≤ 4.5 ACH50							
For National v3.2 and CA v3.4:	≤ 4.0 ACH50							
01375	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2 (Rev. 13)	Comment	<p>Section 5a –Track A requires Rater to verify that manufacturer and model number of installed HVAC equipment matches design</p> <p>Issue: Several Partners have asked whether Raters are required to verify that the manufacturer and model number of the HVAC equipment installed in a home match the HVAC design report when using Track A. They note that Section 5a of the checklist, which applies to Track A, does not contain a checklist item requiring this verification. In contrast, this requirement is included in Item 5b.1, which applies to Track B.</p> <p>For context, Track A requires the rater to follow the procedures and requirements that are listed in ANSI / RESNET / ACCA / ICC 310, which is the standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. In Standard 310, the Rater is required to collect information from the HVAC designer specified characteristics of the system design, including the manufacturer and equipment model number, per Section 4.2.5.3.2. Subsequently, it is the Rater’s responsibility to verify that the field-installed equipment matches the manufacturer and model number specified in the HVAC design. This requirement is a prerequisite to conducting the airflow test, as stated in Section 6.2.2.1 of Standard 310:</p>				

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				<p>“...The Specified manufacturer(s) and model number(s) of the equipment in the Forced-Air HVAC system under test matches the installed equipment or supplemental documentation has been collected as defined in Section 4.2.5 and verified in accordance with Section 4.3. If the installed equipment does not match the specified equipment in the original or supplemental documentation, then the Forced-air HVAC system shall not be further evaluated using this standard, and Grade III shall be designated for Blower Fan volumetric airflow, Blower Fan watt draw, and refrigerant charge.”</p>
				<p>Resolution: While Section 5a of the checklist does not contain an item specifically requiring the Rater to verify that the field-installed equipment matches the manufacturer and model number specified in the HVAC design, it does explicitly require in Item 5a.1 that the blower fan volumetric airflow achieves Grade I or II. Therefore, verification of the manufacturer and model number must be completed by the Rater because it is a prerequisite in Standard 310 for achieving Grade I or II.</p>
01390	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Comment	<p>Section 8 – Kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan inlets must be located in the kitchen and bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan inlets must be located in the bathroom</p>
				<p>Issue: A partner has asked whether the inlet of the kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan required by Section 8 of the National Rater Field Checklist can be located outside the kitchen or separated by a doorway. A similar question could be asked of the inlet for a bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The EPA’s intent is that any local mechanical exhaust fan inlet be located within the space that it serves (i.e., within the kitchen or bathroom) and not be separated by a doorway.</p> <p>For example, consider a local mechanical exhaust fan that is located inside a room solely containing a toilet. This room is separated by a door from the rest of the bathroom, which contains the shower. Because this fan is separated by a door from the bathroom with the source of moisture, it would not satisfy the intent of a bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan.</p> <p>As another example, consider a local mechanical exhaust fan that is located inside a single-room bathroom that is adjacent to a kitchen not enclosed by walls. Because this fan is</p>

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				<p>separated by a door from the kitchen, it would not satisfy the intent of a kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan.</p> <p>This intent aligns with the language in ASHRAE 62.2, which states that “a local mechanical exhaust system shall be designed and installed <u>in</u> each kitchen and bathroom”. Additionally, based on this intent, a local mechanical exhaust system designated for one space (e.g., a bathroom) is not permitted to also serve as the local mechanical exhaust system for another space (e.g., a kitchen). However, local mechanical exhaust fans are allowed to be part of a Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation System.</p> <p>Section 8 currently specifies that a local mechanical exhaust system must be installed “<u>in</u> each kitchen and bathroom...”, thereby conveying the EPA’s intent. Therefore, no changes to program documents will be made.</p>
01344	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Item 8.1 – Top vents of microwave-integrated exhaust fan may be temporarily sealed when measuring airflow</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether they are permitted to temporarily tape off the vents of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan when measuring its airflow.</p> <p>Microwaves with integrated exhaust fans often have vents at both the bottom of the microwave and at the top front of the microwave. When installed in recirculation mode, the vent at the bottom of the microwave serves as the air inlet and the vent at the top front of the microwave serves as the air outlet. In contrast, when installed to exhaust to the outside, both vents serve as the air inlet and the connected ductwork serves as the air outlet.</p> <p>When measuring the airflow of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan, it can be difficult for Raters to configure a measurement device that captures the airflow from both the bottom vent and the top vent. One strategy for addressing this is to tape off the top vents during testing. While taping over the top inlets in the microwave can cause flow restriction that reduces overall airflow through the blower fan, this approach allows for the use of similar test equipment for common range hoods and microwave-integrated exhaust fans.</p> <p>Resolution: To encourage and facilitate the measurement of microwave-integrated exhaust fan airflow, Raters will be permitted to tape off all air inlets except at the bottom during airflow measurements. While this will likely result in a conservative assessment of airflow, no</p>

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				<p>correction factors shall be applied to the measured airflow to account for the increased airflow restriction caused by the tape.</p> <p>To reflect this allowance, Footnote 48 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“The Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation System air flows and local exhaust air flows shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the schedule defined by the HCO that the home is being certified under. <u>To facilitate testing the air flow of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan, Raters are permitted to tape off all air inlets except at the bottom. However, no correction factors shall be applied to the measured air flow to account for the increased airflow restriction.</u>”</p>
01343	01/15/2025	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Item 9.1 – Simplified language regarding filtration exemption</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 63, associated with Item 9.1, exempts mini-splits, HRV’s, and ERV’s, from the program’s filtration requirement, and justifies this exemption due to the limited availability of MERV-rated filters for such systems. Since these footnotes were written, MERV-rated filters have become more commonplace, particularly for HRV’s and ERV’s.</p>
				<p>Resolution: While the program will maintain the current exemption so as not to increase stringency via a revision, the justification for the exemption will be removed and the language in Footnote 63 simplified, as follows:</p> <p>“While fFilters are recommended, <u>but not required</u>, for mini-split systems, HRV’s, and ERV’s, these systems, ducted or not, typically do not have MERV-rated filters available for use and are, therefore, also exempted under this version of the requirements.”</p>
01346	01/15/2025	Water Management System Builder Requirements (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p>
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: The Water Management System Builder Requirements will be archived and no longer maintained.</p>
01342	01/15/2025	National Water Management System Builder Requirements (Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Item 1.8 - Foundation drainage exemption for all basements in Group I soils</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 9 provides an exemption from the requirement to install a drain tile for all crawlspace foundations and existing basement foundations (e.g., in a home undergoing gut rehab) if they are constructed in Group I Soils (e.g., well-drained ground or sand-gravel mixtures), as defined by 2009 IRC Table R405.1.</p> <p>A partner has asked EPA whether the exemption could be extended to basements in new homes, rather than only basements in existing homes. The partner has noted that the IRC exempts all foundation types from the requirement to install a drain tile system if constructed in Group I soils.</p> <p>Furthermore, the EPA's Indoor airPLUS program exempts crawlspaces and basements from the requirement to install a drain or sump pump if constructed in free-draining soils. While not the same as a perimeter foundation drainage system, this exemption suggests that accumulation of groundwater in a home is not a significant concern when the foundation is in such soils.</p> <p>Resolution: The intent of Item 1.8 is to ensure water is transported away from foundation walls. The EPA reviewed analogous requirements in the IRC and Indoor airPLUS program, as well as consulted with industry experts about the necessity of a drain tile system for foundations built in Group I soils. The EPA has determined that any basement foundation (new or existing) located in Group I soils merits an exemption from providing a drain tile so long as the entire foundation is located in Group I soil. For example, simply backfilling excavated areas around the foundation with Group I soils would not be acceptable, because this would not create a path for water to drain away from the footings of foundation walls.</p> <p>As a result, Footnote 9 will be revised by removing the word “existing” from the reference to basements, and relocating the last sentence for clarity, as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“Alternatively, either a drain tile that is pre-wrapped with a fabric filter or a Composite Foundation Drainage System (CFDS) that has been evaluated by ICC-ES per AC 243 are permitted to be used. Note that the CFDS must include a soil strip drain or another ICC-ES evaluated perimeter drainage system to be eligible for use. <u>A drain tile is not</u></p>

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				<p><u>required when a certified hydrologist, soil scientist, or engineer has determined that a crawlspace foundation or basement foundation is installed in Group I Soils (i.e., well-drained ground or sand-gravel mixtures), as defined by 2009 IRC Table R405.1.</u> In an existing home (e.g., in a home undergoing a gut rehab.) a drain tile installed only on the interior side of the footing without a channel is permitted. Additionally, a drain tile is not required when a certified hydrologist, soil scientist, or engineer has determined that a crawlspace foundation, or an existing basement foundation (e.g., in a home undergoing a gut rehab.), is installed in Group I Soils (i.e., well-drained ground or sand-gravel mixtures), as defined by 2009 IRC Table R405.1.”</p>
01377	01/15/2025	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Cooling Systems Section - No whole-house fan in Reference Design</p> <p>Issue: A stakeholder asked for clarification on whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design is specified to have a whole-house fan. A whole-house fan, unlike a whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation system, is typically considered an efficiency measure. ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022 defines this measure as follows: “Whole-House Fan - A forced air system consisting of a fan or blower that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p> <p>Such fans are most often used in climates with low humidity and large daily temperature swings, such as in the southwest.</p> <p>Section 4.49 of Standard 301 specifies that “when a Whole-House fan is present in the Rated Home no Whole-House fan shall be assumed in the Reference Home.” This allows rated homes with a whole-house fan to receive credit for increased natural ventilation in comparison to the reference home, while also accounting for the increase in energy consumption due to the fan.</p> <p>Because the ERI Target Procedure documents do not specify whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design (ESRD) should be configured with a whole-house fan, the logic in Footnote 1 applies: “Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.” As a result, when a Rated Home is configured with a whole-house fan, the ESRD will also be configured with one, negating the benefits of the measure.</p> <p>Resolution: To align with ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, the ERI Target Procedure will be updated to specify that the ESRD should be configured without a whole-house fan. For clarity,</p>

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				<p>this will be grouped with the other Cooling System parameters and include the key portion of the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, so as not to be confused with HVAC fans or whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation systems. Specifically, a new row will be added to the end of the Cooling Systems Section with the following language:</p> <p>“Whole-House Fan: None. Per ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, a Whole-House Fan is a forced air system that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p>
01378	01/15/2025	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Cooling Systems Section - No whole-house fan in Reference Design</p> <p>Issue: A stakeholder asked for clarification on whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design is specified to have a whole-house fan. A whole-house fan, unlike a whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation system, is typically considered an efficiency measure. ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022 defines this measure as follows: “Whole-House Fan - A forced air system consisting of a fan or blower that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p> <p>Such fans are most often used in climates with low humidity and large daily temperature swings, such as in the southwest.</p> <p>Section 4.49 of Standard 301 specifies that “when a Whole-House fan is present in the Rated Home no Whole-House fan shall be assumed in the Reference Home.” This allows rated homes with a whole-house fan to receive credit for increased natural ventilation in comparison to the reference home, while also accounting for the increase in energy consumption due to the fan.</p> <p>Because the ERI Target Procedure documents do not specify whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design (ESRD) should be configured with a whole-house fan, the logic in Footnote 1 applies: “Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.” As a result, when a Rated Home is configured with a whole-house fan, the ESRD will also be configured with one, negating the benefits of the measure.</p> <p>Resolution: To align with ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, the ERI Target Procedure will be updated to specify that the ESRD should be configured without a whole-house fan. For clarity, this will be grouped with the other Cooling System parameters and include the key portion of the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, so as not to be confused with HVAC fans or whole-</p>

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				<p>dwelling mechanical ventilation systems. Specifically, a new row will be added to the end of the Cooling Systems Section with the following language:</p> <p>“Whole-House Fan: None. Per ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, a Whole-House Fan is a forced air system that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p>
01403	01/15/2025	California Program Requirements (Version 3.3, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 4 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 4 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that</p>

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				a home must still meet its performance target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”
01384	01/15/2025	California Program Requirements, (Version 3.3, Rev. 13)	Refinement	ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists
				<p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 1 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“National-Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01351	01/15/2025	California Program Requirements (Version 3.3, Rev. 13)	Change	Exhibit 1- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 1 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01404	01/15/2025	California	Clarification	Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict

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		<p>Program Requirements (Version 3.4, Rev. 13)</p>		<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 4 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 4 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its performance target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01385	01/15/2025	<p>California Program Requirements,</p>	<p>Refinement</p>	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p> <p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p>

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		(Version 3.4, Rev. 13)		<p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 1 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows: “National-Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01352	01/15/2025	California Program Requirements (Version 3.4, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 1 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01405	01/15/2025	California Program Requirements (Version 3.5, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p>

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				<p>Footnote 4 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 4 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its performance target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01398	01/15/2025	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be</p>

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				<p>satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01387	01/15/2025	Florida Program Requirements, (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process for Florida Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p> <p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“National Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01370	01/15/2025	Florida Program Requirements	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 – Exhibit, and language preceding it, updated for clarify</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is used to determine the ERI target that a home must meet to be certified.</p>

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		(Version 3.1, Rev. 13)		<p>While it is not mandatory to include these measures, a home that is configured with them will, by definition, achieve an ERI score very close to the target. Therefore, the exhibit is helpful for conveying to partners the types of measures they may choose to include in a certified home. For example, if a home uses a feature less efficient than one in the exhibit, then another feature that is more efficient than the exhibit will have to be selected to compensate.</p> <p>However, the language that precedes the table, as well as the table itself, could be revised to better convey this intent and improve their clarity and consistency.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To better convey the intent of Exhibit 1, and in particular emphasize that it is not mandatory to include the features contained within, the language preceding the table will be updated as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home <u>Summary</u>”¹⁰</p> <p>The ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home is the set of efficiency features modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for each home pursuing certification. The following table summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, Therefore, while the features below are not mandatory if they are not used then other measures of equivalent efficiency will be needed to achieve the ENERGY STAR ERI Target.</p> <p>In addition, note that the Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, Exhibit 2, contain additional requirements such as total duct leakage limits, minimum allowed insulation levels, and minimum allowed fenestration performance. Therefore, the EPA recommends that partners review the documents in Exhibit 2 prior to selecting measures.”</p>
01359	01/15/2025	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev.13)	Clarification	<p>Exhibit 1 – Energy efficiency metrics updated to UEF, SEER2, and HSPF2</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 currently specifies cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment efficiency using the outdated metrics of SEER, HSPF, and EF. While this aligns with the corresponding ENERGY STAR ERI Target Procedure, it may cause confusion as partners specify and model equipment using the new metrics of SEER2, HSPF2, and UEF.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: For improved clarity, the efficiency of cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment will be updated to the latest rating metrics. Note that this is purely informative, because Exhibit 1 does not contain mandatory requirements and the corresponding ERI Target Procedure that determines the performance target will not change.</p> <p>In addition to updating the efficiency values, the beginning of Footnote 10 will be revised as follows: “<u>While the corresponding ERI Target Procedure specifies air conditioners and heat pumps using SEER and HSPF, in this document they have been converted to the current rating metrics, SEER2 and HSPF2, assuming a ducted split system. Similarly, while water heaters have been specified using Energy Factor (EF), in this document they have been converted to Uniform Energy Factor (UEF).</u> Note that the efficiency levels of ENERGY STAR certified products aligned with these product specifications when this Version was first released..”</p>
01349	01/15/2025	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Change	Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01379	01/15/2025	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 13)	Change	Cooling Systems Section - No whole-house fan in Reference Design
				<p>Issue: A stakeholder asked for clarification on whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design is specified to have a whole-house fan. A whole-house fan, unlike a whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation system, is typically considered an efficiency measure. ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022 defines this measure as follows: “Whole-House Fan - A forced air system consisting of a</p>

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				<p>fan or blower that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p> <p>Such fans are most often used in climates with low humidity and large daily temperature swings, such as in the southwest.</p> <p>Section 4.49 of Standard 301 specifies that “when a Whole-House fan is present in the Rated Home no Whole-House fan shall be assumed in the Reference Home.” This allows rated homes with a whole-house fan to receive credit for increased natural ventilation in comparison to the reference home, while also accounting for the increase in energy consumption due to the fan.</p> <p>Because the ERI Target Procedure documents do not specify whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design (ESRD) should be configured with a whole-house fan, the logic in Footnote 1 applies: “Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.” As a result, when a Rated Home is configured with a whole-house fan, the ESRD will also be configured with one, negating the benefits of the measure.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To align with ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, the ERI Target Procedure will be updated to specify that the ESRD should be configured without a whole-house fan. For clarity, this will be grouped with the other Cooling System parameters and include the key portion of the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, so as not to be confused with HVAC fans or whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation systems. Specifically, a new row will be added to the end of the Cooling Systems Section with the following language:</p> <p>“Whole-House Fan: None. Per ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, a Whole-House Fan is a forced air system that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p>
01399	01/15/2025	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p>

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				<p>With these changes, homes will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where the mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01388	01/15/2025	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements, (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p> <p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “National Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “National Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “National Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “National Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “National Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“NationalRater checklist[s].”</p>

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01371	01/15/2025	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 – Exhibit, and language preceding it, updated for clarify</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is used to determine the ERI target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, a home that is configured with them will, by definition, achieve an ERI score very close to the target. Therefore, the exhibit is helpful for conveying to partners the types of measures they may choose to include in a certified home. For example, if a home uses a feature less efficient than one in the exhibit, then another feature that is more efficient than the exhibit will have to be selected to compensate.</p> <p>However, the language that precedes the table, as well as the table itself, could be revised to better convey this intent and improve their clarity and consistency.</p> <p>Resolution: To better convey the intent of Exhibit 1, and in particular emphasize that it is not mandatory to include the features contained within, the language preceding the table will be updated as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home Summary”¹⁰</p> <p>The ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home is the set of efficiency features modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for each home pursuing certification. The following table summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, Therefore, while the features below are not mandatory if they are not used then other measures of equivalent efficiency will be needed to achieve the ENERGY STAR ERI Target.</p> <p>In addition, note that the Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, Exhibit 2, contain additional requirements such as total duct leakage limits, minimum allowed insulation levels, and minimum allowed fenestration performance. Therefore, the EPA recommends that partners review the documents in Exhibit 2 prior to selecting measures.”</p>
01360	01/15/2025	Oregon and	Clarification	<p>Exhibit 1 – Energy efficiency metrics updated to UEF, SEER2, and HSPF2</p>

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		Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)		<p>Issue: Exhibit 1 currently specifies cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment efficiency using the outdated metrics of SEER, HSPF, and EF. While this aligns with the corresponding ENERGY STAR ERI Target Procedure, it may cause confusion as partners specify and model equipment using the new metrics of SEER2, HSPF2, and UEF.</p> <p>Resolution: For improved clarity, the efficiency of cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment will be updated to the latest rating metrics. Note that this is purely informative, because Exhibit 1 does not contain mandatory requirements and the corresponding ERI Target Procedure that determines the performance target will not change.</p> <p>In addition to updating the efficiency values, the beginning of Footnote 10 will be revised as follows: <u>“While the corresponding ERI Target Procedure specifies air conditioners and heat pumps using SEER and HSPF, in this document they have been converted to the current rating metrics, SEER2 and HSPF2, assuming a ducted split system. Similarly, while water heaters have been specified using Energy Factor (EF), in this document they have been converted to Uniform Energy Factor (UEF). Note that the efficiency levels of ENERGY STAR certified products aligned with these product specifications when this Version was first released..”</u></p>
01350	01/15/2025	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01380	01/15/2025	Oregon and	Change	Cooling Systems Section - No whole-house fan in Reference Design

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		<p>Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)</p>		<p>Issue: A stakeholder asked for clarification on whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design is specified to have a whole-house fan. A whole-house fan, unlike a whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation system, is typically considered an efficiency measure. ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022 defines this measure as follows: “Whole-House Fan - A forced air system consisting of a fan or blower that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p> <p>Such fans are most often used in climates with low humidity and large daily temperature swings, such as in the southwest.</p> <p>Section 4.49 of Standard 301 specifies that “when a Whole-House fan is present in the Rated Home no Whole-House fan shall be assumed in the Reference Home.” This allows rated homes with a whole-house fan to receive credit for increased natural ventilation in comparison to the reference home, while also accounting for the increase in energy consumption due to the fan.</p> <p>Because the ERI Target Procedure documents do not specify whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design (ESRD) should be configured with a whole-house fan, the logic in Footnote 1 applies: “Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.” As a result, when a Rated Home is configured with a whole-house fan, the ESRD will also be configured with one, negating the benefits of the measure.</p> <p>Resolution: To align with ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, the ERI Target Procedure will be updated to specify that the ESRD should be configured without a whole-house fan. For clarity, this will be grouped with the other Cooling System parameters and include the key portion of the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, so as not to be confused with HVAC fans or whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation systems. Specifically, a new row will be added to the end of the Cooling Systems Section with the following language:</p> <p>“Whole-House Fan: None. Per ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, a Whole-House Fan is a forced air system that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p>
01400	01/15/2025	Caribbean	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p>

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		<p>Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)</p>		<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes using the National Rater Field Checklist will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>While this is not directly relevant to these program requirements, Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where a mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory for any version of the national or regional program requirements.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation for any version of the national or regional program requirements, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01386	01/15/2025	Caribbean	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process for the Caribbean Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p>

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		Program Requirements, (Version 3, Rev. 13)		<p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows: “Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01353	01/15/2025	Caribbean Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01401	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p>

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				<p>With these changes, homes using the National Rater Field Checklist will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>While this is not directly relevant to these program requirements, Footnote 5 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where a mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory for any version of the national or regional program requirements.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation for any version of the national or regional program requirements, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 5 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>
01389	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements, (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process for the Pacific Section – Simplified reference to Rater checklists</p> <p>Issue: In the Certification Process Section, the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Design Review Checklist” and the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Field Checklist” are collectively referred to using the shorthand “Caribbean and Pacific Rater Checklists”.</p> <p>Specifying that partners must use the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklists” in these instances is redundant with Exhibit 2 of the document. This Exhibit specifies the mandatory requirements for all certified homes that are applicable to each party, including Raters.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: To simplify the language in this section, all references to the “Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklist[s],” will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Caribbean and Pacific Rater checklist[s].”</p>
01372	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 – Exhibit, and language preceding it, updated for clarify</p> <p>Issue: Exhibit 1 summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is used to determine the ERI target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures, a home that is configured with them will, by definition, achieve an ERI score very close to the target. Therefore, the exhibit is helpful for conveying to partners the types of measures they may choose to include in a certified home. For example, if a home uses a feature less efficient than one in the exhibit, then another feature that is more efficient than the exhibit will have to be selected to compensate.</p> <p>However, the language that precedes the table, as well as the table itself, could be revised to better convey this intent and improve their clarity and consistency.</p> <p>Resolution: To better convey the intent of Exhibit 1, and in particular emphasize that it is not mandatory to include the features contained within, the language preceding the table will be updated as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Exhibit 1: ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home <u>Summary</u>”¹⁰</p> <p><u>The ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home is the set of efficiency features modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target for each home pursuing certification. The following table summarizes the key efficiency features in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design Home, which is modeled to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target that a home must meet to be certified. While it is not mandatory to include these measures. Therefore, while the features below are not mandatory if they are not used then other measures of equivalent efficiency will be needed to achieve the ENERGY STAR ERI Target.</u></p> <p>In addition, note that the Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, Exhibit 2, contain additional requirements such as total duct leakage limits, minimum allowed insulation levels, and minimum allowed fenestration performance. Therefore, the EPA</p>

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				recommends that partners review the documents in Exhibit 2 prior to selecting measures.”
01361	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Clarification	Exhibit 1 – Energy efficiency metrics updated to UEF, SEER2, and HSPF2
				Issue: Exhibit 1 currently specifies cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment efficiency using the outdated metrics of SEER, HSPF, and EF. While this aligns with the corresponding ENERGY STAR ERI Target Procedure, it may cause confusion as partners specify and model equipment using the new metrics of SEER2, HSPF2, and UEF.
				Resolution: For improved clarity, the efficiency of cooling equipment, heating equipment, and water heater equipment will be updated to the latest rating metrics. Note that this is purely informative, because Exhibit 1 does not contain mandatory requirements and the corresponding ERI Target Procedure that determines the performance target will not change. In addition to updating the efficiency values, the beginning of Footnote 11 will be revised as follows: “ <u>While the corresponding ERI Target Procedure specifies air conditioners and heat pumps using SEER and HSPF, in this document they have been converted to the current rating metrics, SEER2 and HSPF2, assuming a ducted split system. Similarly, while water heaters have been specified using Energy Factor (EF), in this document they have been converted to Uniform Energy Factor (UEF).</u> Note that the efficiency levels of ENERGY STAR certified products aligned with these product specifications when this Version was first released..”
01354	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Change	Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements
				Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.
				Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder

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				Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.
01402	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Clarification	<p>Eligibility Requirements – Removal of slab insulation as an example of a potential code conflict</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to convert the reduced thermal bridging details in Section 3 of the National Rater Field Checklist from mandatory features to a list of details that must be assessed so they can be accurately reflected in the final energy model.</p> <p>With these changes, homes using the National Rater Field Checklist will no longer be mandated to include slab edge insulation, along with several other details.</p> <p>While this is not directly relevant to these program requirements, Footnote 4 discusses what to do when there are conflicts between a program requirement and a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document. As an example, it cites a scenario where a mandatory requirement for slab insulation cannot be satisfied because installation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections. This example is now unsuitable given that slab insulation will no longer be mandatory for any version of the national or regional program requirements.</p> <p>Resolution: Considering the new policy that no longer mandates the use of slab insulation for any version of the national or regional program requirements, the scenario in which slab insulation poses a potential conflict between program requirements and code requirements will be removed to avoid potential confusion. Specifically, Footnote 4 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>“..In the event that a code requirement, a manufacturer’s installation instructions, or an engineering document conflicts with a requirement of the ENERGY STAR program (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these program requirements shall not be met. Certification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the conflicting requirement (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.”</p>

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01332	02/15/2024	Pacific Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 – Annual Solar Fraction to be determined using US DOE Draw Profile reflective of the home</p> <p>Issue: Several partners have reported challenges meeting the solar fraction required by this program version. They note that the SRCC OG-300 Draw Pattern, which is required to be used when determining the annual solar fraction, is based upon hot water consumption of 64 gallons per day, while a typical dwelling in the Caribbean or Pacific is likely to use considerably less. This is, in part, due to warm water inlet temperatures, which result in the need for less heated water to achieve desired fixture outlet temperatures. Therefore, systems that achieve a Solar Fraction $\geq 87\%$ at the SRCC OG-300 Draw Pattern are typically oversized, making them prone to overheating issues. The partners suggested that determining the solar fraction using alternative US DOE Draw Profiles that are more appropriate to the needs of the dwelling would result in better-performing systems.</p> <p>To estimate the actual hot water needs of a typical dwelling in the Caribbean and Pacific, EPA used ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022, which estimates daily service hot water use in Equation 4.2-29. The maximum daily use for each home configuration was identified and then mapped to the closest US DOE Draw Profile, which was generally the Low or Medium profile depending on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling.</p> <p>Resolution: The policy will be revised to specify that the annual solar fraction must be determined using a US DOE Draw Profile that is reflective of the home, in lieu of the SRCC OG-300 Draw Pattern. Specifically, Footnote 10 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Solar fraction shall be determined using the ICC-SRCC OG-300 Solar Water Heating System Certification Program’s annual solar fraction rating (SF_A) for the rating location closest to the home. <u>For Dwellings or Dwelling Units with ≤ 3 bedrooms, determine SF_A using the Low U.S. DOE Draw Pattern; otherwise, use Medium and for the SRCC OG-300 Draw Pattern.</u> A solar water heater system with a Solar Fraction $\geq 87\%$ that has no backup water heater is permitted to be used. For the OG-300 directory, visit https://solar-rating.org/directories/certified-companies/.”</p>
01362	01/15/2025	Pacific Program Requirements	Change	<p>Exhibit 2- Sunset of Water Management System Builder Requirements</p> <p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA</p>

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		(Version 3.2, Rev. 13)		<p>will be proceeding with a proposal to sunset the Water Management System Builder Requirements. While the value of the water management system details is recognized, the EPA believes that the quality control of the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes and Multifamily New Construction programs will benefit by limiting their requirements to those that are third-party verified, with limited exceptions.</p> <p>Resolution: Due to the sunset of the Water Management System Builder Requirements, the row containing “Builder” and “Completion of SFNH National Water Mgmt. System Builder Reqs., Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2” will be deleted from Exhibit 2 - Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes.</p>
01381	01/15/2025	Pacific ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Cooling Systems Section - No whole-house fan in Reference Design</p> <p>Issue: A stakeholder asked for clarification on whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design is specified to have a whole-house fan. A whole-house fan, unlike a whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation system, is typically considered an efficiency measure. ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-2022 defines this measure as follows: “Whole-House Fan - A forced air system consisting of a fan or blower that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p> <p>Such fans are most often used in climates with low humidity and large daily temperature swings, such as in the southwest.</p> <p>Section 4.49 of Standard 301 specifies that “when a Whole-House fan is present in the Rated Home no Whole-House fan shall be assumed in the Reference Home.” This allows rated homes with a whole-house fan to receive credit for increased natural ventilation in comparison to the reference home, while also accounting for the increase in energy consumption due to the fan.</p> <p>Because the ERI Target Procedure documents do not specify whether the ENERGY STAR Reference Design (ESRD) should be configured with a whole-house fan, the logic in Footnote 1 applies: “Any parameter not specified in this exhibit shall be identical to the value entered for the Rated Home.” As a result, when a Rated Home is configured with a whole-house fan, the ESRD will also be configured with one, negating the benefits of the measure.</p> <p>Resolution: To align with ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, the ERI Target Procedure will be updated to specify that the ESRD should be configured without a whole-house fan. For clarity,</p>

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				<p>this will be grouped with the other Cooling System parameters and include the key portion of the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, so as not to be confused with HVAC fans or whole-dwelling mechanical ventilation systems. Specifically, a new row will be added to the end of the Cooling Systems Section with the following language:</p> <p>“Whole-House Fan: None. Per ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, a Whole-House Fan is a forced air system that exhausts at least 5 ACH of indoor air to the outdoors thereby drawing outdoor air into a home through open windows and doors for the purpose of cooling the home.”</p>
01391	01/15/2025	Caribbean and Pacific Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Comment	<p>Section 3 – Kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan inlets must be located in the kitchen and bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan inlets must be located in the bathroom</p>
				<p>Issue: A partner has asked whether the inlet of the kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan required by Section 3 of the Caribbean and Pacific Rater Field Checklist can be located outside the kitchen or separated by a doorway. A similar question could be asked of the inlet for a bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The EPA’s intent is that any local mechanical exhaust fan inlet be located within the space that it serves (i.e., within the kitchen or bathroom) and not be separated by a doorway.</p> <p>For example, consider a local mechanical exhaust fan that is located inside a room solely containing a toilet. This room is separated by a door from the rest of the bathroom, which contains the shower. Because this fan is separated by a door from the bathroom with the source of moisture, it would not satisfy the intent of a bathroom local mechanical exhaust fan.</p> <p>As another example, consider a local mechanical exhaust fan that is located inside a single-room bathroom that is adjacent to a kitchen not enclosed by walls. Because this fan is separated by a door from the kitchen, it would not satisfy the intent of a kitchen local mechanical exhaust fan.</p> <p>This intent aligns with the language in ASHRAE 62.2, which states that “a local mechanical exhaust system shall be designed and installed <u>in</u> each kitchen and bathroom”. Additionally, based on this intent, a local mechanical exhaust system designated for one space (e.g., a bathroom) is not permitted to also serve as the local mechanical exhaust system for another space (e.g., a kitchen). However, local mechanical exhaust fans are allowed to be part of a Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation System.</p>

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				Section 3 currently specifies that a local mechanical exhaust system must be installed “ <u>in</u> each kitchen and bathroom...”, thereby conveying the EPA’s intent. Therefore, no changes to program documents will be made.
01395	01/15/2025	Caribbean & Pacific Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	Specification of on-site photos to be captured by the rater
				Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding quality assurance and quality control enhancements to the ENERGY STAR Certification System, the EPA will be proceeding with a requirement for Raters to capture a new set of photos covering key ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes program requirements, in addition to the minimum rated features that Raters are already required to photograph according to ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 Normative Appendix B.
				<p>Resolution: To indicate which photos the Rater is required to capture, a camera icon will be added (📷) next to a “Rater Verified” checkbox for the following checklist items: 3.1, 3.2, 5.1.1, 5.2, 6.3, 7.1, 8.1a, 8.1b, and 9.1.</p> <p>To reinforce the photos and/or test result reports that Raters are already required to capture according to ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301 Normative Appendix B, a camera icon will be added for the following checklist items: 2.1, and 5.3.</p> <p>In addition, a new checkbox with the caption “Photo of Rater” will be added next to each inspection date and signature row to indicate the requirement for a Rater “selfie” photo at each inspection.</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to the Rater Verified column header as follows:</p> <p>“Where indicated by a camera icon (📷) next to a “Rater Verified” checkbox, the Rater is required to capture at least one photo per item during their inspection as a representative example of the installed strategy used to meet the applicable program requirement. For items involving one or more performance tests (e.g., bathroom local mechanical exhaust), the Rater must capture a photo of each recorded test result or a report generated by automated software that communicates with the testing device showing the test result. Photos are not required for non-applicable items marked “N/A.”</p>

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				<p>At each inspection (i.e., pre-drywall and final), the Rater is required to capture at least one geotagged and time-stamped photo of themselves in front of the dwelling unit. It is recommended, but not required, for the other photos to also be geotagged and timestamped.</p> <p>In addition to the photos and test results specified above, the Rater must capture all photos required by the on-site inspection protocols in Normative Appendix B of ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301.”</p>
01345	01/15/2025	Caribbean & Pacific Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Item 3.1 – Top vents of microwave-integrated exhaust fan may be temporarily sealed when measuring airflow</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether they are permitted to temporarily tape off the vents of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan when measuring its airflow.</p> <p>Microwaves with integrated exhaust fans often have vents at both the bottom of the microwave and at the top front of the microwave. When installed in recirculation mode, the vent at the bottom of the microwave serves as the air inlet and the vent at the top front of the microwave serves as the air outlet. In contrast, when installed to exhaust to the outside, both vents serve as the air inlet and the connected ductwork serves as the air outlet.</p> <p>When measuring the airflow of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan, it can be difficult for Raters to configure a measurement device that captures the airflow from both the bottom vent and the top vent. One strategy for addressing this is to tape off the top vents during testing. While taping over the top inlets in the microwave can cause flow restriction that reduces overall airflow through the blower fan, this approach allows for the use of similar test equipment for common range hoods and microwave-integrated exhaust fans.</p> <p>Resolution: To encourage and facilitate the measurement of microwave-integrated exhaust fan airflow, Raters will be permitted to tape off all air inlets except at the bottom during airflow measurements. While this will likely result in a conservative assessment of airflow, no correction factors shall be applied to the measured airflow to account for the increased airflow restriction caused by the tape.</p> <p>To reflect this allowance, Footnote 8 will be revised as follows:</p>

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				<p>“The Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation System air flows and local exhaust air flows shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the schedule defined by the HCO that the home is being certified under. <u>To facilitate testing the air flow of a microwave-integrated exhaust fan, Raters are permitted to tape off all air inlets except at the bottom. However, no correction factors shall be applied to the measured air flow to account for the increased airflow restriction.</u>”</p>
01407	01/15/2025	Caribbean and Pacific Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.2, Rev. 13)	Change	Item 6.2 – Removal of air sealing exemption related to stucco cladding
				<p>Issue: Following a stakeholder feedback period regarding ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Revision 14 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Revision 05, the EPA will be proceeding with a proposal to remove an exemption from air sealing around windows and doors for homes with a continuous stucco cladding system. The change is being made because stucco cladding is not airtight, this is a relatively inexpensive air sealing detail to implement, and requiring the detail to be completed will simplify the program and should result in more consistent outcomes.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The exemption related to stucco cladding systems contained in Footnote 30 will be removed.</p>
01335	04/01/2024	Applicable Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)	Change	Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Virginia
				<p>Issue: Virginia has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, National Version 3.1 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Virginia. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2026.</p>
01336	04/01/2024	Applicable	Change	Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Illinois

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		Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)		<p>Issue: Illinois has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, National Version 3.1 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Illinois. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2026.</p>
01337	04/01/2024	Applicable Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Oregon</p> <p>Issue: Oregon has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, Oregon and Washington Version 3.2 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Oregon. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2025.</p>
01338	04/01/2024	Applicable Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Connecticut</p> <p>Issue: Connecticut has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, National Version 3.1 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Connecticut. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2025.</p>
01339	04/01/2024	Applicable	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in New Jersey</p>

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		Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)		<p>Issue: New Jersey has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, National Version 3.1 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for New Jersey. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2025.</p>
01340	04/01/2024	Applicable Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Maryland</p> <p>Issue: Maryland has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, National Version 3.1 will no longer provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Maryland. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2025.</p>
01341	04/01/2024	Applicable Program Requirements, Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)	Change	<p>Exhibit 1 - Implementation of National Version 3.2 in Florida</p> <p>Issue: Florida has recently adopted a more efficient residential energy code. As a result, once the new codes are fully implemented, neither National Version 3.1 nor Florida Version 3.1 will provide meaningful savings relative to code-compliant noncertified homes in this state.</p> <p>Resolution: To continue to provide meaningful savings relative to non-certified homes in states that have adopted more rigorous codes, a National Version 3.2 implementation date has been defined for Florida. To reflect this change, Exhibit 1 will be modified to implement National Version 3.2 for homes permitted on or after 01-01-2025.</p>
01363	01/15/2025	Applicable Program Requirements,	Clarification	<p>Footnote 1 - Applicable permit date is tied to the permit that governs efficiency features</p> <p>Issue: For residential construction projects that involve multiple permits with the local jurisdiction, questions may arise regarding which “building permit” is the permit that is</p>

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		<p>Versions, and Revisions by Location (Rev. 13)</p>	<p>referenced in the program requirements. The date of a project's permit is important as this date establishes which program version must be used for certification.</p> <p>Resolution: In cases where multiple permits are issued for a project (e.g., footing permits, building permits), the 'permit date' is the date on which the permit authorizing construction of the building, including the building features affecting energy use (e.g., insulation levels, window U/SHGC specifications, mechanical equipment efficiency), was issued. Permits that establish the ability of a project to conduct work not related to construction of the building and its energy-related features, such as permits related to site development activities, are not intended to establish a project's permit date within the context of the ENERGY STAR program.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 1 will be updated as follows:</p> <p>"The 'permit date' is the date on which the permit authorizing construction of the building was issued. <u>In cases where multiple permits are issued for a project (e.g., footing permits, building permits), the 'permit date' is the date on which the permit authorizing construction of the building, including the building features affecting energy use (e.g., insulation levels, window U/SHGC specifications, mechanical equipment efficiency), was issued.</u> Alternatively, the date of the Rater's first site visit or the date of the contract on the home is allowed to be used as the 'permit date'. The permit application date is not allowed to be used."</p>
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