

# ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup>

## Residential New Construction Programs

### Historical Document

This document is provided for reference because it has been superseded by a more recent Version or Revision. Please find current program documents on the [Program Requirements](#) webpage.

Use of older Versions and Revisions, such as this document, are typically limited to homes and buildings with a permit date (or, for manufactured homes, a production date) prior to a specified date. Consult the [Implementation Timeline](#) table to assess whether a home or apartment is still eligible to be certified using this document.

For questions or more information, contact us at [energystarhome@energystar.gov](mailto:energystarhome@energystar.gov).



# ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes

## National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2 (Rev. 13) <sup>1, 2</sup>

### HVAC Commissioning Contractor Responsibilities:

- The commissioning contractor must be credentialed by an HVAC oversight organization to complete this checklist. One checklist must be completed and signed by the commissioning contractor for each HVAC system that is commissioned.
- The completed checklist for each commissioned system, along with the corresponding National HVAC Design Report, shall be retained by the contractor for a minimum of three years for quality assurance purposes. Furthermore, the contractor shall provide the completed checklist to the builder, the Rater <sup>3</sup> responsible for certifying the home, and the HVAC oversight organization upon request.
- Visit [www.energystar.gov/newhomeshvac](http://www.energystar.gov/newhomeshvac) for information about the credential requirement and this checklist.

### 1. Commissioning Overview

1.1 Contractor name \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1.2 Organization that your company is credentialed with:  ACCA  Advanced Energy  NYSERDA

1.3 Builder client name: \_\_\_\_\_

1.4 Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

1.5 National HVAC Design Report corresponding to this system has been collected from designer or builder.  Contractor-verified

1.6 Area that system serves, per Item 1.4 of National HVAC Design Report:  Whole-house  Upper-level  Lower-level  Other \_\_\_\_\_

1.7 House plan, per Item 1.6 of National HVAC Design Report: \_\_\_\_\_  Site-specific design  Group design #: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Refrigerant Charge** - Run system for 15 minutes before testing. If outdoor ambient temperature at the condenser is  $\leq 55^{\circ}\text{F}$  or, if known, below the manufacturer-recommended minimum operating temperature for the cooling cycle, then the system shall include a TXV, the outdoor temperature shall be recorded in Item 2.1, and the contractor shall check "N/A" in this Section. <sup>4</sup> Ducted or non-ducted single-packaged systems (i.e., PTAC) are exempt from this section.

	Contractor Verified	N/A
2.1 Outdoor ambient temperature at condenser: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB	-	-
2.2 Return-side air temperature inside duct near evaporator, during cooling mode: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ WB	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.3 Liquid line pressure: _____ psig	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.4 Liquid line temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.5 Suction line pressure: _____ psig	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.6 Suction line temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

For System with Thermal Expansion Valve (TXV):

2.7 Condenser saturation temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Using Item 2.3)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.8 Subcooling value: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Item 2.7 - Item 2.4)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.9 OEM subcooling goal: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.10 Subcooling deviation: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Item 2.8 – Item 2.9)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>

For System with Fixed Orifice:

2.11 Evaporator saturation temperature: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Using Item 2.5)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.12 Superheat value: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Item 2.6 – Item 2.11)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.13 OEM superheat goal: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Using superheat tables and Items 2.1 & 2.2)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.14 Superheat deviation: _____ $^{\circ}\text{F}$ DB (Item 2.12 – Item 2.13)	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.15 Item 2.10 is $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ or Item 2.14 is $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.16 An OEM test procedure (e.g., as defined for a ground-source heat pump) has been used in place of the sub-cooling or super-heat process and documentation has been attached that defines this procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3. Indoor HVAC Fan Airflow

3.1 The mode with the higher design HVAC fan airflow used, per Item 5.2 of National HVAC Design Report: <input type="checkbox"/> Heating <input type="checkbox"/> Cooling	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.2 Static pressure test holes have been created, and test hole locations are well-marked and accessible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Test hole location for <b>return</b> external static pressure: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenum <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> Transition <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	-	-
Test hole location for <b>supply</b> external static pressure: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenum <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet <input type="checkbox"/> Transition <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	-	-
3.3 Measured <b>return</b> external static pressure (Enter value only, without negative sign): _____ IWC	-	-
3.4 Measured <b>supply</b> external static pressure (Enter value only, without positive sign): _____ IWC	-	-
3.5 Measured <b>total</b> external static pressure = Value-only from Item 3.3 + Value-only from Item 3.4 = _____ IWC	-	-
3.6 <b>Measured</b> (Item 3.5) - <b>Design</b> (Item 5.4 on National HVAC Design Report) total external static pressure = _____ IWC	-	-
3.7 Measured HVAC fan airflow, using Item 3.5 and fan speed setting: _____ CFM	-	-
3.8 Measured HVAC fan airflow (Item 3.7) is $\pm 15\%$ of design HVAC fan airflow (Item 5.2 on National HVAC Design Report).	<input type="checkbox"/>	-

### 4. Air Balancing of Supply Registers & Return Grilles (Recommended, but not Required) <sup>5</sup>

4.1 Balancing report attached with room-by-room design airflows from Item 5.5 on National HVAC Design Report, and contractor-measured airflow using ANSI / ACCA 5 QI-2015 protocol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 Room-by-room airflows verified by contractor to be within the greater of $\pm 20\%$ or 25 CFM of design airflow.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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### Footnotes

1. This Checklist is designed to align with the requirements of ANSI / ACCA's 5 QI-2015 protocol, thereby improving the performance of HVAC equipment in new homes when compared to homes built to minimum code. However, these features alone cannot prevent all ventilation, indoor air quality, and HVAC problems (e.g., those caused by a lack of maintenance or occupant behavior). Therefore, this Checklist is not a guarantee of proper ventilation, indoor air quality, or HVAC performance.  

This Checklist applies to split air conditioners, unitary air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, and water-source (i.e., geothermal) heat pumps up to 65 kBtuh with forced-air distribution systems (i.e., ducts) and to furnaces up to 225 kBtuh with forced-air distribution systems (i.e., ducts). All other permutations of equipment (e.g., boilers, mini-split / multi-split systems) and distribution systems are exempt.
2. For a home certified in the State of ID, MT, OR, or WA, the following alternatives and exemptions apply:
  - a. For a home with an air-source heat pump up to 65 kBtuh with a forced-air distribution system (i.e., ducts), the contractor is permitted to complete the 2011 PTCS<sup>®</sup> Commissioned Heat Pump Certificate and Startup Form in lieu of this Checklist.
  - b. For a home with a split air conditioner or unitary air conditioner up to 65 kBtuh with a forced-air distribution system (i.e., ducts), the contractor is permitted to complete the Northwest Central AC Commissioning & Startup Form in lieu of this Checklist.
  - c. For a home in a location with < 600 CDD, the completion of this Checklist is recommended, but not required.
3. The term 'Rater' refers to the person(s) completing the third-party verification required for certification. The person(s) shall: a) be a Certified Rater or Approved Inspector, as defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, or an equivalent designation as determined by a Home Certification Organization (HCO); and, b) have attended and successfully completed an EPA-recognized training class. See [www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining](http://www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining).
4. Either factory-installed or field-installed TXV's may be used. For field-installed TXV's, ensure that sensing bulbs are insulated and tightly clamped to the vapor line with good linear thermal contact at the recommended orientation, usually 4 or 8 o'clock.
5. Air balancing of supply registers and return grilles is highly recommended to improve the performance of the HVAC system and comfort of the occupants, but is not required at this time for certification. When air balancing is completed, balancing dampers or proper duct sizing shall be used instead of looped or coiled ductwork to limit flow to diffusers. When balancing dampers are used, they shall be located at the trunk to limit noise unless the trunk will not be accessible when the balancing process is conducted. In such cases, Opposable Blade Dampers (OBD) or dampers located in the duct boot are permitted to be used.

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