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To: windows@energystar.gov
Subject: Performance criteria.
Date: Tuesday, September 04, 2012 12:49:43 PM

Hello, and thank you for reading my email.

I wanted to put my two sense in on the window performance criteria being discussed. I am mainly speaking from my past 12 years as a windows sales associate in the Northeast Wisconsin area. I am in full support of the new Energy Star requirements being discussed! I believe one area that seems to be greatly overlooked is the air infiltration rating. I have been in a number of homes that have a new vinyl window rated at .32 u-factor but leak so much air that horizontal icicles have formed inside the home on the window frames. These are generally west and north facing units. I have typically found these lesser quality units in spec homes and modular lower cost housing. It concerns me greatly that new homes are being built with windows that have no low e or argon in them, saving just a few hundred dollars on the whole house, and in turn wasting a tremendous amount of money in heating dollars over the life of the windows. In my opinion, air infiltration goes hand in hand with the quality of construction of the unit. There is a huge difference in quality and efficiency between a window that passes the .30 air test and one that is less than .15. I don't believe a pass fail in this area is wise, I think that for the northern areas a .15 minimum would help, or linking the air infiltration with the u-factor would be better. Air infiltration issues are the number one complaint from customers with their old windows and the new units being purchased! Condensation is next in line (which certainly is being addressed already) People expect their new units to be sealing tightly and I don't believe a .30cfm up here does the trick. I vote for testing it and putting it on the nfrc label to give the consumer more information that will help them with their buying decision.

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