



## Highlights from National Program Requirements, Version 3 and 3.1, Revision 11

Revision 11 of the National Program Requirements, v3 and v3.1, have now been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](#). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, at their discretion, but must apply this Revision to all homes permitted on or after January 01, 2022.

The [Current Policy Record](#) contains all of the specific changes in this Revision. ‘[Mark-up](#)’ documents showing all tracked changes except formatting changes are also available. EPA strongly encourages partners to review these documents. The most substantial updates are summarized below:

### Multiple Program Documents

- To better reflect the revised program eligibility and align with the structure of the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) program name, the program’s name has been changed from “ENERGY STAR Certified Homes” to “ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes”.
- All instances of the term “Path” in reference to the HVAC Grading and HVAC Credential options have been replaced with “Track” (e.g., “Path A” and “Path B” have been replaced with “Track A” and “Track B”, respectively), to reduce potential confusion with the MFNC program, which uses the same term in reference to that program’s performance target (i.e., Prescriptive Path, ERI Path, and ASHRAE Path).

### National Program Requirements Version 3 / 3.1

- All multifamily dwelling units other than two-family dwellings and townhouses will be required to earn the ENERGY STAR through the MFNC program for buildings permitted on or after July 1, 2021. The Eligibility Requirements section has been revised to specify that only Dwellings (e.g., single-family homes, duplexes) and Townhouses will be eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR through the Single-Family New Homes program after this date.
- To continue to provide meaningful savings in states with more rigorous codes, a Version 3.1 implementation date has been defined for PA and NE for homes permitted on or after April 1, 2021 and July 1, 2021, respectively.
- To increase flexibility while not meaningfully impacting stringency, partners are now allowed to certify homes in FL using the National Version 3.1 program requirements in addition to the Florida Version 3.1 program requirements.

### National Rater Field Checklist

- The Section 7 header has been revised to “Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation Systems (‘Vent System’) & Inlets in Return Duct”. Instances of “whole-house ventilation” have also been updated to the ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301-defined term “Dwelling Unit Mechanical Ventilation System” and the definition of this term has been added.
- For clarity, all instances of “intake” have been changed to “inlet” when referring to the point of entry for outdoor air.
- Item 7.3 has been revised to state that any outdoor air inlet connected to a ducted return of the HVAC system must meet two requirements:
  - Controls automatically restrict airflow using a motorized damper during vent. off-cycle and occupant override,
  - The Rater-measured vent. rate must be  $\leq 15$  CFM or 15% above design value at the highest HVAC fan speed.

Previously, motorized dampers were only listed as an example and partners may have incorrectly interpreted that a barometric damper would meet this intent.

Clarifying footnotes have also been added, along with an alternative to use a Constant Airflow Regulating (CAR) damper with a manufacturer-specified maximum flow rate no higher than 15 CFM or 15% above the ventilation design value in lieu of measurement. Note that this does not replace the measurement requirement in Item 7.1.

- The revisions to Item 7.3 now allow continuously-operating vent. systems that are connected to the ducted return of the HVAC system (e.g., ERV’s, HRV’s, inline fans). Furthermore, all HVAC fan efficiency requirements have been grouped in Item 7.5 and the vent. system controller has been prohibited from continuously operating the HVAC fan (regardless of whether the HVAC fan is the primary vent. fan).
- Items 6.4 & 6.5 have been clarified such that duct leakage testing is required for any ventilation system connected to the space heating or cooling system serving the dwelling unit; and that visual inspection is required for any ventilation system exempted from testing (i.e., systems not connected to the space heating or cooling system).
- Item 6.2 has been clarified for an HVAC system with multiple zones: bedroom pressures shall be verified with all zones calling for heating or cooling simultaneously; additional testing of individual zones is not required.

### National Water Management System Builder Requirements

- Items 1.1 & 1.2 have been revised to clarify that all impermeable and permeable surfaces must meet the applicable slope requirements. Previously, they only contained examples of common impermeable and permeable surfaces.