

Current ENERGY STAR Certified 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
00787	11/01/2019	All National & Regional Program Requirements (Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p data-bbox="888 295 2022 370">“Home Energy Rater” and “Rating Field Inspector” replaced with industry-standard terms</p> <p data-bbox="888 376 2022 500">Issue: Program documentation includes the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)-defined terms “Home Energy Rater” and “Rating Field Inspector.” These terms are used interchangeably and are associated with the generic term “Rater” within the body of the document.</p> <p data-bbox="888 506 2022 662">To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p data-bbox="888 669 2022 701">Partners have asked whether these terms should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p> <p data-bbox="888 708 2022 928">Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to these terms will be revised as appropriate to reflect industry-standard terms. The terms “Home Energy Rater” and “Rating Field Inspector” will be replaced in all program documents with the industry-standard terms “Certified Rater” and “Approved Inspector” respectively. For conciseness, the generic term “Rater” will be maintained within the body of the document and the following footnote will be used to define this generic term using the industry-standard terms:</p> <p data-bbox="888 935 2022 1058">“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, Approved Inspector, or an equivalent designation as determined by a VOO such as RESNET; and, b) have attended and successfully completed an EPA-recognized training class. See www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining.”</p>
00788	11/01/2019	All National & Regional Program Requirements (Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p data-bbox="888 1104 2022 1136">Generic term “Provider” defined with industry-standard definition</p> <p data-bbox="888 1143 2022 1208">Issue: Program documentation includes the generic term “Provider” without reference to the industry-standard definition.</p> <p data-bbox="888 1214 2022 1279">Partners have asked whether the generic term “Provider” should be defined according to industry standard terms.</p> <p data-bbox="888 1286 2022 1416">Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional Verification Oversight Organizations (VOOs) can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, a definition of “Provider” will be added based on the industry standard term Approved Rating Provider from ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301. For conciseness, the generic term “Provider” will be maintained</p>

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				<p>within the body of the document and the following footnote will be added to define this generic term using the industry-standard term:</p> <p>“The term ‘Provider’ refers to an Approved Rating Provider that is a designee of a VOO such as RESNET.”</p>
00789	11/01/2019	All National & Regional Program Requirements (Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Energy Rating Companies required to sign partnership agreement</p>
				<p>Issue: The ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program implicitly requires that Energy Rating Companies (e.g. rater companies and Providers) sign an ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement. However, this requirement is not explicitly included in program documentation.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The requirement that Energy Rating Companies sign an ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement will be added to the Program Requirements by revising the third bullet in the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements section as follows:</p> <p>“Energy Rating Companies (e.g., rater companies and Providers) are required to sign an ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement, which can be found at www.energystar.gov/homesPA, and Raters are required to complete EPA-recognized training, which can be found at www.energystar.gov/newhomestraining.”</p>
00790	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Comment	<p>Continued implementation of Version 3 in Virginia</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have questioned whether a Version 3.1 implementation date will be defined in response to Virginia’s adoption of the 2015 IECC with amendments, which became effective as of 09/04/2018. The amendments significantly reduce stringency of the new Virginia code as compared to the 2015 IECC.</p>
				<p>Resolution: An analysis was completed to estimate the savings of a Version 3 home relative to the latest version of Virginia’s residential building energy code. This analysis yielded a weighted average savings over 10%. Because Version 3 continues to offer meaningful savings in Virginia relative to the latest code, Version 3.1 will not be implemented in Virginia at this time. Version 3.1 will not be implemented in Virginia until another state-level code update occurs or until EPA defines a nationwide implementation date for Version 3.1.</p>
00802	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p>
				<p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program</p>

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				<p>that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 2, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”. 2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 2 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 2. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.” 3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.” 4. Exhibit 2 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:
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				Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements
				Requirements Applicable to Path A & B	
				Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
				Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading ¹³	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement.
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310.
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
00800	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed	
				<p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p> <p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>	
00801	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section - “EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”	
				<p>Issue: In the “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in several locations in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>	

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				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00798	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 1 - “Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: Step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process uses the term “Home Energy Rating Software” which originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the last sentence of step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Use an EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)’s Approved Software Rating Tool to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, which is the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR.”</p>
00799	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record</p>
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with the program’s intent. However, the section does not reference or direct partners to the Policy Record, a document that disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00791	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 - Supplemental footnote removed</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” is used to model particular parameters of the ENERGY STAR</p>

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				<p>Reference Design. While this supplemental information may be helpful for a small subset of partners, including language about modeling in this document rather than the ERI Target Procedure program documents may cause confusion and inadvertent misalignment between the two.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify this document and centralize all guidance regarding modeling of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design within the ERI Target Procedure program documents, Footnote 14 will be deleted.</p>
00792	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 2 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 2 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.</p>
00793	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Exhibit 4 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report</p>
				<p>Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00780, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 16 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”</p>
00794	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p>

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				<p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00795	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 6 & 8 - Old date-dependent policies removed
				<p>Issue: Footnotes 6 and 8 refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 6 will be deleted: “If permitted prior to July 1, 2012, units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, without assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.” And Footnote 8 will be deleted: “Prior to Rev. 08, homes were permitted to be certified using either a Prescriptive Path or a Performance Path. Homes with a permit date on or after 60 days after the release of Rev. 08 shall only use the Performance Path, which has been renamed the ENERGY STAR Certification Process. To minimize disruption to projects that are in process, homes with a permit date before 09/01/2015 are permitted to use a modified version of the Prescriptive Path in lieu of the Performance Path. For more information about this compliance option, visit: www.energystar.gov/v3prescriptivepath.” Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00796	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Footnote 7 – Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built.</p>

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				<p>However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 7 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00797	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 9 - Website URL added</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 9 directs partners to find the ERI Target Procedure on “EPA’s website” but does not provide a URL. This could potentially cause confusion for partners attempting to locate this document.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, a URL will be provided and Footnote 9 will be revised to state:</p>

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				<p>“The software program shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home by following the National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 09), available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00803	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Comment	<p>Continued implementation of Version 3.1 in Maryland</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have questioned whether a new Version of the program requirements will be developed in response to the latest version of Maryland’s residential building energy code. This code, with an effective date of 03/25/2019, incorporates the 2018 IECC with amendments.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The new code was determined to be equally or very slightly less stringent than the 2018 IECC, and Version 3.1 was determined to offer meaningful savings over the 2018 IECC. Because Version 3.1 continues to offer meaningful savings over Maryland’s new residential building energy code, it will continue to be implemented in Maryland. A new Version will not be implemented in Maryland until another state-level code update occurs or until EPA defines a new nationwide Version.</p>
00815	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p>
				<p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p>
				<p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for

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				<p>homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 2, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”.</p> <p>2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 2 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 2. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.”</p> <p>3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.”</p> <p>4. Exhibit 2 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Party Responsible</th> <th>Mandatory Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Applicable to Path A & B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rater</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 • Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Builder</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements	Requirements Applicable to Path A & B		Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 • Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 	Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements																							
Requirements Applicable to Path A & B																								
Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 • Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³																								
HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. 																							
HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. 																							
Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential																								
HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
00813	11/01/2019		Refinement	Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed																				

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		National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)		<p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p> <p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00814	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section - “EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”</p> <p>Issue: In the “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in several locations in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p> <p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00811	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 1 - “Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p> <p>Issue: Step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process uses the term “Home Energy Rating Software” which originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p> <p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the last sentence of step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Use an EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)’s Approved Software Rating Tool to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, which is the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR.”</p>

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00812	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p> <p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows: “This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00804	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Exhibit 1 - Supplemental footnote removed
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” is used to model particular parameters of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. While this supplemental information may be helpful for a small subset of partners, including language about modeling in this document rather than the ERI Target Procedure program documents may cause confusion and inadvertent misalignment between the two.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify this document and centralize all guidance regarding modeling of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design within the ERI Target Procedure program documents, Footnote 13 will be deleted.</p>
00805	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Exhibit 2 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.</p> <p>Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 2 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.</p>
00806	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	Exhibit 3 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report
				<p>Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00781, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 15 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”</p>
00807	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p> <p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00808	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 6 & 8 - Old date-dependent policies removed</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnotes 6 and 8 refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 6 will be deleted: “If permitted prior to July 1, 2012, units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, without assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.”</p>

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				<p>And Footnote 8 will be deleted:</p> <p>“Prior to Rev. 06, homes were permitted to be certified using either a Prescriptive Path or a Performance Path. Homes with a permit date on or after 09/01/2015 shall only use the Performance Path, which has been renamed the ENERGY STAR Certification Process. To minimize disruption to projects that are in process, homes with a permit date before 09/01/2015 are permitted to use a modified version of the Prescriptive Path in lieu of the Performance Path. For more information about this compliance option, visit: www.energystar.gov/v31prescriptivepath.”</p> <p>Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00809	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Footnote 7 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 7 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For</p>

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				<p>more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00810	11/01/2019	National Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 9 - Website URL added
				<p>Issue: Footnote 9 directs partners to find the ERI Target Procedure on “EPA’s website” but does not provide a URL. This could potentially cause confusion for partners attempting to locate this document.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, a URL will be provided and Footnote 9 will be revised to state: “The software program shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home by following the National ERI Target Procedure, Version 3.1 (Rev. 09), available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00111	01/15/2012	Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 04)	Issue Under Review	Item 2.2 & Item 4.4.1 – Reflective insulation
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked for permission to use radiant barrier house wrap as reflective insulation for the purpose of fulfilling Items 2.2 and 4.4.1. Policy Record Entry 00024 did not allow this practice because the R-values for reflective insulation products rely on air spaces that are not integral to the products and because the ICC Evaluation Service typically classifies such products as weather barriers rather than as insulation products. In response to this guidance, partners have asked EPA to reevaluate the acceptability of reflective insulation products on the grounds that they reduce heat transfer when installed properly, they are treated as insulation products under the Federal Trade Commission 16 CFR Part 460 – Labeling and Advertising of Home Insulation, and there are applicable standards that govern their specification and installation (ASTM C727 and ASTM C1224).</p>
				<p>Resolution: [Issue under review.]</p>
00817	11/01/2019	National Rater Design Review	Change	HVAC grading path integrated into program
				<p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to</p>

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		<p>Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)</p>	<p>complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existing requirements will be rebranded as the requirements that must be completed if pursuing Path B - HVAC Credential and moved to the second page of the document. 2. A new table will be added to the first page and branded as the requirements that must be completed if pursuing Path A - HVAC Grading. The first three sections of this table will contain identical requirements to the Path B table. The fourth section will reference the design review required by ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus require ENERGY STAR-specific design documentation and design criteria, as follows:
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				<p style="text-align: center;">If pursuing <u>Path A - HVAC Grading</u>, complete this page. ¹</p> <p>Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Permit Date: _____</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>1. Partnership Status</th> <th>Must Correct</th> <th>Rater ² Verified</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.1 Rater has verified and documented that builder has an ENERGY STAR partnership agreement using energystar.gov/partnerlocator. ³</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">2. High-Performance Fenestration</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.1 Specified fenestration meets or exceeds 2009 IECC requirements. ⁴</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">3. High-Performance Insulation</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">3.1 <u>Specified</u> ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels comply with one of the following options:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.1.1 Meets or exceeds 2009 IECC levels ^{5, 6, 7} OR;</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.1.2 Achieves \leq 133% of the total UA resulting from the U-factors in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3, per guidance in Footnote 5d, AND specified home infiltration does not exceed the following: ^{6, 7} 3 ACH50 in CZs 1, 2 2.5 ACH50 in CZs 3, 4 2 ACH50 in CZs 5, 6, 7 1.5 ACH50 in CZ 8</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">4a. Review of ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 HVAC Design Report with ENERGY STAR Supplement</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4a.1 HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, with the ENERGY STAR supplement, collected for records, with no items left blank.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4a.2 ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 Rater Design Review Checklist completed for applicable housing type, with all items marked, "Rater Verified".</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4a.3 Cooling sizing % is within the cooling sizing limit selected by the HVAC designer.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Rater Name: _____ Date of Review: _____</p> <p>Rater Signature: _____ Rater Company Name: _____</p> <p>3. A new Footnote will be added after the header of this table to clarify when the new path can be used: "Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed."</p>	1. Partnership Status	Must Correct	Rater ² Verified	1.1 Rater has verified and documented that builder has an ENERGY STAR partnership agreement using energystar.gov/partnerlocator . ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. High-Performance Fenestration			2.1 Specified fenestration meets or exceeds 2009 IECC requirements. ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. High-Performance Insulation			3.1 <u>Specified</u> ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels comply with one of the following options:			3.1.1 Meets or exceeds 2009 IECC levels ^{5, 6, 7} OR;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3.1.2 Achieves \leq 133% of the total UA resulting from the U-factors in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3, per guidance in Footnote 5d, AND specified home infiltration does not exceed the following: ^{6, 7} 3 ACH50 in CZs 1, 2 2.5 ACH50 in CZs 3, 4 2 ACH50 in CZs 5, 6, 7 1.5 ACH50 in CZ 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4a. Review of ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 HVAC Design Report with ENERGY STAR Supplement			4a.1 HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, with the ENERGY STAR supplement, collected for records, with no items left blank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4a.2 ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 Rater Design Review Checklist completed for applicable housing type, with all items marked, "Rater Verified".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4a.3 Cooling sizing % is within the cooling sizing limit selected by the HVAC designer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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00818	11/01/2019	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.1 - Partnership status only requires verification one time</p> <p>Issue: Item 1.1 requires the Rater to verify that the builder is an ENERGY STAR partner, but does not indicate how often this verification must occur, nor explicitly require the Rater to document that this verification has occurred. Documentation may be necessary as part of quality assurance activities at a later time.</p> <p>Additionally, requiring the Rater to verify that the builder is an "ENERGY STAR partner" could be more precisely stated as requiring that the builder has an "ENERGY STAR partnership agreement".</p>																																				

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				<p>Resolution: To improve clarity and explicitly require documentation, Item 1.1 will be refined as follows: “1.1 Rater has verified and documented that builder has an ENERGY STAR partnership agreement using energystar.gov/partnerlocator.” To clarify how often the verification must occur, a new Footnote will be added, as follows: “Raters are only required to document the partnership status of a builder once, for the first home that the Rater certifies for them.”</p>
00819	11/01/2019	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.2 - HVAC credential status requires verification annually</p>
				<p>Issue: Item 1.2 requires the Rater to verify that the HVAC contractor holds certain credentials, but does not indicate how often this verification must occur, nor explicitly require the Rater to document that this verification has occurred. Documentation may be necessary as part of quality assurance activities at a later time.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity and explicitly require documentation, Item 1.2 will be refined as follows: “Rater has verified and documented that HVAC contractor holds credential required to complete National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, unless all equipment to be installed in home to be certified is an exempted type, in which case check “N/A.” To clarify how often the verification must occur, a new Footnote will be added, as follows: “Raters’ documentation of the HVAC contractor credential must be updated at least once every 12 months.”</p>
00931	11/01/2019	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Item 4.2.1 – Revised outdoor design temperature limits</p>
				<p>Issue: A partner has noted that more recent weather data from ASHRAE has been released since the outdoor design temperature limits referenced in Item 4.2.1 were first developed. Other partners have noted that the methodology used to select county-level limits could be improved (e.g., by considering all weather stations within a specified radius of the center of the county, rather than evaluating only the weather stations within the county).</p> <p>Resolution: The outdoor design temperature limits will be updated by incorporating the 2017 ASHRAE weather data set. Furthermore, the methodology will be improved by evaluating all weather stations within 40 miles of the geographic center of each county; by assigning a cooling design temperature limit of 80 °F when the selected or averaged cooling design temperature limit for a county / territory is < 80 °F; and by rounding cooling design temperatures up to the nearest integer and heating design temperatures down to the nearest integer.</p>

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				<p>These revised limits will be referred to as the “2019 Edition” and will be permitted to be used with any National HVAC Design Report, and required to be used for all National HVAC Design Reports generated on or after 10-01-2020.</p> <p>The original limits will be referred to as the “2015 Edition” and will be permitted to be used with any National HVAC Design Report generated before 10-01-2020.</p> <p>Item 4.2.1 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“4.2.1 Cooling season and heating season outdoor design temperatures used in loads (3.3) are within the limits defined for the State and County, or US Territory, where the home will be built, or the designer has provided an allowance from EPA to use alternative values. All limits are published at energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps. Note that revised (i.e., 2019 Edition) limits are required to be used for all HVAC Design Reports generated after 10/01/2020.”</p>
00816	11/01/2019	National Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 4.2.3 & 4.2.4 - Guidance added on how to determine conditioned floor area and window area</p>
				<p>Issue: Items 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 currently do not include guidance on how a Rater should calculate “Conditioned Floor Area” and “Window Area”, which could cause inadvertent discrepancies between the values determined by them and by HVAC designers on the HVAC Design Report.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Raters are required to calculate these values using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 4.2.3 as follows:</p> <p>“Conditioned Floor Area for the home to be certified shall be calculated in accordance with the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.”</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 4.2.4 as follows:</p> <p>“Window area for the home to be certified shall be calculated in accordance with the on-site inspection protocol provided in Normative Appendix B of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.”</p>
00832	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p>
				<p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same</p>

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time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.
 This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.

Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:

1. Section 5 will be modified, first by rebranding the existing requirements in this section as the requirements that must be completed if pursuing Path B - HVAC Credential. In addition, three new requirements will be added to this section that must be completed if pursuing Path A – HVAC Grading. These three new requirements will define the Grade that the equipment must achieve for the home to be certified, specifically Grade I or II blower fan volumetric airflow, Grade I or II blower fan watt draw, and Grade I refrigerant charge, if the non-invasive procedure in ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 is permitted to be used. The revised section will be as follows.

HVAC System ³¹ (National HVAC Design Report Item # in parenthesis)		Must Correct	Rater Verified ²	N/A ³
5. Heating & Cooling Equipment - Complete Path A - HVAC Grading ³² or Path B - HVAC Credential				
Path A	5a.1 Blower fan volumetric airflow is Grade I or II per ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
	5a.2 Blower fan watt draw is Grade I or II per ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5a.3 Refrigerant charge is Grade I per ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. See Footnote 33 for exemptions. ³³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Path B	5b.1 HVAC manufacturer & model number on installed equipment matches either of the following (check box): ³⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> National HVAC Design Report (4.3, 4.4, & 4.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Written approval received from designer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
	5b.2 External static pressure measured by Rater at contractor-provided test locations and documented below: ³⁵ Return-Side External Static Pressure: _____ IWC. Supply-Side External Static Pressure: _____ IWC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5b.3 Permitted, but not required: National HVAC Commissioning Checklist collected, with no items left blank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. A new Footnote will be added to the header of this section to clarify when the new path can be used and to require that all eligible unitary HVAC systems in the home meet these requirements: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed. For Path A, all unitary HVAC Systems including air conditioners and heat pumps up to 65 kBtuh shall comply with 5a.1 through 5a.3 for the home to be certified.”
3. A new Footnote will also be added to Item 5a.3, providing an alternative when the non-invasive procedure in ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 is not permitted to be used: “If the

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				<p>non-invasive procedure in ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 is not permitted to be used during the final inspection of a home (i.e., due to the equipment type or to outdoor air temperatures that do not meet the requirements of the non-invasive method), then the home is permitted to be certified with a default refrigerant charge designation of Grade III. Note that in these circumstances, the weigh-in method procedure in ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 may still be used to pursue a Grade I designation.”</p>
00821	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.2 - Footnote added to reference infiltration requirements that may be applicable</p>
				<p>Issue: Item 3.1 of the Rater Design Review Checklist (Rater-D) requires compliance with either Item 3.1.1, which only contains insulation requirements, or with Item 3.1.2, which contains both insulation and infiltration requirements. Item 1.2 of the Rater Field Checklist (Rater-F) requires field verification that insulation meets or exceeds Item 3.1 of the Rater-D, but does not explicitly reference the infiltration requirements that are also applicable when Item 3.1.2 has been selected.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify the requirements of Item 1.2 in the Rater-F, a new footnote will be added to this item that references the infiltration requirements that are applicable when Item 3.1.2 of the Rater-D has been selected. The new footnote will read as follows: “In addition, the infiltration shall not exceed the limits specified in Item 3.1.2 of the National Rater Design Review Checklist, if this option has been used to comply with Item 3.1.”</p>
00820	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.3 - Very limited applicability of infrared thermography</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked if infrared thermography can be used to grade the installation quality of insulation, as a means of verifying compliance with this Item.</p>
				<p>Resolution: While infrared thermography is permitted to be used to grade the installation quality of insulation in accordance with the requirements in ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019, its use cannot replace pre-drywall inspections and so has very limited applicability to homes seeking certification. ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 allows the following use of infrared thermography: “Thermographic inspection is permitted to be used to determine that an assembly is insulated and achieves a Grade II rating if the person doing the inspection is an ASNT NDT Level III or a licensed engineer, or if the person doing the inspection is working under the direction of an ASNT NDT Level III or a licensed engineer. Thermographic inspection shall not be used to determine an assembly achieves a Grade I rating.” Note that because the program requires Grade I insulation except in limited instances, and ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 does not allow thermographic inspection to be used to determine that an assembly achieves a Grade I rating, infrared thermography generally cannot be used in the certification of homes. The one exception is for the scenario defined in</p>

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				<p>Footnote 4, for which 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 and \geq R-5 in Climate Zones 5 to 8.</p> <p>However, because other visual inspections are required at the pre-drywall stage of construction, such as verifying the R-value of the insulation, the presence of fully-aligned air barriers, and the completion of mandatory air sealing details, infrared thermography will have very limited applicability to the certification process and will likely be a more expensive means of verifying the insulation installation quality than a visual inspection.</p>
00827	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.3 - Grade II floor cavity insulation must fill full width and depth of the floor cavity</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 4, referenced by Item 1.3, provides an alternative by which Grade II batts are permitted to be used in floor cavities if the specified conditions are met. This alternative was put in place to address the concern that compression caused by excess insulation prevents the insulation from earning a Grade I designation. Because of this focus, the alternative states that the batt must fill the depth of the floor cavity and that the compression caused by the excess insulation must be the only defect preventing the batt from being assigned Grade I. While it was implied that the batt must also fill the width of the floor cavity, that requirement was not stated explicitly. Since the time that this policy was drafted, the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program has added this explicit intent.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to improve clarity and align with the language used in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program, the phrase “width and” will be added to Footnote 4 as follows:</p> <p>“Two 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; 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.”</p>
00828	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.3, 6.4, 6.5, 7.1 & Section 8 - Version of Std. 301 and Std. 380 to use during field inspections</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when assessing compliance with insulation installation grades. It also identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 that is utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when measuring duct leakage, whole-house ventilation air flow, and local exhaust air flows. Partners have also asked for</p>

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				<p>further clarity on whether appendices of, and interpretations to, the standard should be followed, and when new versions and addenda should be implemented.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, Footnote 5, referenced by Item 1.3; Footnote 36, referenced by Item 6.4 and 6.5; and Footnote 42, referenced by Item 7.1 and Section 8; will be updated.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “Ensure compliance with this requirement using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed.”</p> <p>Footnote 36 will be revised as follows: “Items 6.4 and 6.5 only apply to heating, cooling, and balanced ventilation ducts. Duct leakage shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 380 shall also be followed.”</p> <p>Footnote 42 will be revised as follows: “The whole-house ventilation air flow and local exhaust air flows shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 380 shall also be followed.”</p>
00829	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Item 3.1, 6.4, 6.5, & 8.1 - Old date-dependent policies removed</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 13, referenced by Item 3.1; Footnote 38 & 39, referenced by Item 6.4 and 6.5; and Footnote 51, reference by Item 8.1; refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p> <p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, the following language will be deleted from Footnote 13: “, with the following exception: <i>For homes permitted through 12/31/2012:</i> CZ 1-5: For spaces that provide less than 5.5 in. of clearance, R-15 Grade I insulation is permitted. CZ 6-8: For spaces that provide less than 7.0 in. of clearance, R-21 Grade I insulation is permitted. <i>For homes permitted on or after 01/01/2013:</i> Homes shall achieve Item 3.1 without exception.”</p>

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				<p>And Footnote 38 will be deleted: “For a home certified in the State of ID, MT, OR, or WA that is permitted before 01/01/2016, as an alternate to Rater-verified duct leakage, a PTCS® Duct Sealing Certification Form is permitted to be collected by the Home Energy Rater.”</p> <p>And the following sentence will be deleted from Footnote 39: “For homes permitted through 12/31/2013: Homes are permitted to be certified if rough-in leakage is ≤ 6 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or ≤ 60 CFM25, with air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ductwork, & duct boots installed.”</p> <p>And the following language will be deleted from Footnote 51: “For homes permitted through 01/01/2014: Homes are permitted to be certified without enforcement of this Item to provide partners with additional time to integrate this feature into their homes. For homes permitted on or after 01/01/2014:”</p> <p>Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00822	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Item 5.1 – Requirements clarified for installed equipment that is not exempted
				<p>Issue: Footnote 31 of Item 5.1 currently addresses what to do if the installed equipment does not match the National HVAC Design Report (HVAC-D). However, it does not provide guidance in the rare case where the specified equipment was an exempted type, as defined in Footnote 2 of the National Rater Design Review Checklist (Rater-D), but the installed equipment is not exempted.</p> <p>In such cases, the Rater must re-review the Rater-D to ensure that all requirements have been met; specifically, that the contractor is credentialed, that the previously exempted sections of the HVAC-D have been completed, and that the revised report meets the design tolerances in Section 4 of the Rater-D.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify that additional items must be verified in the case where the specified HVAC equipment was an exempted type, but the installed equipment is not, a new sentence will be added after the first sentence of Footnote 31, as follows: “If installed equipment does not match the National HVAC Design Report, then prior to certification the Rater shall obtain written approval from the designer (e.g., email, updated National HVAC Design Report) confirming that the installed equipment meets the requirements of the National HVAC Design Report. In addition, if “N/A” was selected for Item 1.2 of the National Rater Design Review Checklist, then the Rater shall verify that all installed equipment is an exempted type per Footnote 2 of that Checklist or, if not an exempted type, shall re-review</p>

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				<p>the National Rater Design Review Checklist to ensure compliance with all requirements (e.g., contractor credential, full completion of HVAC Design Report, HVAC design tolerances).</p> <p>In cases where the condenser unit is installed after the time of inspection by the Rater, the HVAC manufacturer and model numbers on installed equipment can be documented through the use of photographs provided by the HVAC Contractor after installation is complete.”</p>
00830	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 6.2 - Bedroom pressure-balancing not applicable to non-ducted systems</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 34 defines, in part, exemptions to the bedroom pressure-balancing requirements in Item 6.2. Stated exemptions include ventilation ducts and exhaust ducts. However, the bedroom pressure-balancing requirements are also not applicable to non-ducted systems, because non-ducted systems would not create pressure imbalances. This intent is only implied in this Footnote, while it is explicitly stated in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to improve clarity and align with the language used in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program, an explicit exemption for non-ducted systems will be added to Footnote 34 as follows:</p> <p>“Item 6.2 does not apply to ventilation ducts, exhaust ducts, or non-ducted systems. For an HVAC system with a multi-speed fan, the highest design fan speed shall be used when verifying this requirement. When verifying this requirement, doors separating bedrooms from the main body of the house (e.g., a door between a bedroom and a hallway) shall be closed and doors to rooms that can only be entered from the bedroom (e.g., a closet, a bathroom) shall be open. As an alternative to the ± 3 Pa limit, a Rater-measured pressure differential ≥ -5 Pa and $\leq +5$ Pa is permitted to be used for bedrooms with a design airflow ≥ 150 CFM. The Rater-measured pressure shall be rounded to the nearest whole number to assess compliance.”</p>
00823	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Item 6.5 - Exemptions for duct leakage testing aligned with ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standards</p> <p>Issue: A question has arisen as to whether the two current program-specific exemptions to testing of duct leakage to the outdoors should be revised to align with policies contained in ANSI standards.</p> <p>ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 contains an alternative to testing that has prerequisites that generally mirror the first program-specific exemption. This standard also contains an alternative to testing that mirrors current policy in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program for attached dwelling units.</p> <p>ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 380-2019 contains an alternative to testing that generally mirrors the second program-specific exemption.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: In order to improve alignment with available ANSI standards and the clarity of program requirements, Footnote 41, referenced by Item 6.5, will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Testing of duct leakage to the outdoors can be waived in accordance with the 2nd or 3rd alternative of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, Table 4.2.2 (1), footnote (w). Alternatively, testing of duct leakage to outdoors can be waived in accordance with Section 5.5.2 of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 if total duct leakage, at rough-in or final, is \leq 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area or 40 CFM25, whichever is larger. Guidance to assist partners with these alternatives, including modeling inputs, is available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesresources.”</p> <p>Note that a new document will be posted at www.energystar.gov/newhomesresources to provide additional guidance on these exemptions.</p>
00831	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 7.2 - Clarifying which dwelling units are exempted from readily-accessible override controls</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 43 of Item 7.2 provides, in part, recommendations for accessibility of override controls for whole-house mechanical ventilation systems in multifamily dwelling units. However, the phrase “multi-family dwelling unit” is ambiguous because it is not an industry-standard term.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify which house types are exempted from the requirement, Footnote 43 will be revised to use industry-standard terms. The original intent of this footnote was to exempt dwelling units, excluding those that are in dwellings (i.e., duplexes) and townhouses.</p> <p>Specifically, Footnote 43 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“For an attached dwelling unit, excluding units in dwellings (i.e., duplex) and townhomes, the override control is not required to be readily accessible to the occupant. However, in such cases, EPA recommends but does not require that the control be readily accessible to others (e.g., building maintenance staff) in lieu of the occupant.”</p>
00824	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Item 8.1 - Prescriptive kitchen range hood duct sizing for noncircular ducts added</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on whether a builder can utilize a rectangular hard smooth duct in order to meet Compliance Option 3 in the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, referenced by Item 8.1 and Footnote 51. This compliance option provides a prescriptive duct sizing option for fans without a rated airflow rate, but only for circular ducts.</p> <p>The prescriptive sizing requirements come from Table 5.3 in ASHRAE 62.2. The 2016 edition of this standard includes a footnote that states, “For noncircular ducts, calculate the diameter as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter.”</p>

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				<p>Resolution: To improve clarity and provide a prescriptive duct sizing option for noncircular ducts, Compliance Option 3 will be revised to specify that a rectangular duct may be used if the equivalent diameter is 6 in. or greater, where equivalent diameter is calculated as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter. These changes will be made to the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, and no edits will be made to the National Rater Field Checklist.</p>
00825	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 8.1 – Prescriptive kitchen range hood duct sizing for multiple duct diameters added</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to meet Compliance Option 2 in the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, referenced by Item 8.1 and Footnote 51, when multiple duct diameters are used. This compliance option provides a prescriptive duct sizing option for fans with a rated airflow rate, but only for ducts that are all the same diameter.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve clarity and for ease of enforcement, Compliance Option 2 will be revised to specify that when assessing compliance for a system where ducts are not all the same diameter, the smallest duct diameter shall be used. These changes will be made to the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, and no edits will be made to the National Rater Field Checklist.</p>
00826	11/01/2019	National Rater Field Checklist (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Item 10.2 - Reference to footnote corrected</p>
				<p>Issue: Item 10.2 incorrectly references Footnote 59 for alternatives to mechanically drafted or direct-vented fireplaces. The correct footnote for these alternatives is Footnote 58.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To refer to the correct Footnote, Item 10.2 will be updated to reference Footnote 58.</p>
00833	11/01/2019	National HVAC Design Report (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 3.5 & 3.6 -Guidance added on how to determine conditioned floor area and window area</p>
				<p>Issue: Items 3.5 and 3.6 currently do not include guidance on how an HVAC designer should calculate “Conditioned Floor Area” and “Window Area”, which could cause inadvertent discrepancies between the values determined by them and by Raters.</p>
				<p>Resolution: While Raters are required to calculate these values using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019, HVAC designers do not have an industry-standard definition to follow. However, general guidance can be provided to the HVAC designers to inform them of how the Raters will calculate these values, to help ensure consistency.</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 3.5 as follows: “The difference between the Conditioned Floor Area (CFA) used in the design and the actual home to be certified must fall within the tolerance specified in Footnote 2, as verified by a Rater.</p>

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				<p>Be advised, the Rater will calculate CFA using the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019, which defines this value, in part, as the floor area of the Conditioned Space Volume within a building or Dwelling Unit, not including the floor area of attics, crawlspaces, and basements below air sealed and insulated floors. See https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/chapter/16185/ for the complete definition.”</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 3.6 as follows:</p> <p>“The difference between the window area used in the design and the actual home to be certified must fall within the tolerance specified in Footnote 2, as verified by a Rater. Be advised, the Rater will calculate window area using the on-site inspection protocol provided in Normative Appendix B of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019, which instructs the Rater to measure the width and height of the rough opening for the window and round to the nearest inch, and then to use these measurements to calculate window area, rounding to the nearest tenth of a square foot. See https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/chapter/16191/ for the complete protocol.”</p>
00834	11/01/2019	National Water Management System Builder Requirements (Version 3 / 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 4.1 – Bathroom floor ends at interior of door jamb or opening</p>
				<p>Issue: Policy Record entry 00240 already specifies that this Item only applies to rooms containing a toilet, tub, or shower, and wall-to-wall carpeting is permitted to be installed within 2.5 ft. of a toilet, tub, or shower if that carpeting is in an adjacent room. Partners have asked for further clarification on where the bathroom floor ends and the floor of the adjacent room begins when assessing whether wall-to-wall carpeting is within 2.5 feet.</p>
				<p>Resolution: When assessing compliance, the bathroom shall be considered to end, and the adjacent room to begin, at the interior side of the jamb or opening (i.e., the side closest to the bathroom).</p>
00840	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: The first sentence of the second paragraph of this document uses the phrase “Home Energy Rating Software program accredited by an EPA-Approved Verification Oversight Organization”, and the term “Home Energy Rating Software” originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO's can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the first sentence of the second paragraph will be revised as follows:</p> <p>"An EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization's Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine..."</p>
00841	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>"EPA-approved" replaced with "EPA-recognized"</p>
				<p>Issue: In the body of the second paragraph, the phrase "EPA-approved" is used in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)". While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase "EPA-recognized", which is used in other program documents in references to VOO's, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO's), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP's), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO's).</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase "EPA-approved" will be replaced with "EPA-recognized".</p>
00839	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Version of Std. 301 to use when calculating ERI clarified</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the "version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings" should be followed when configuring several parameters in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. However, Partners have noted that it does not include an overarching statement about which implementation of Std. 301 to use when calculating the ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of and interpretations to the standard should be followed, when new versions and addenda should be implemented, and if any exceptions are allowed.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify the program's intent and improve consistency, the following language will be added to Step 1 of the process to calculate the ENERGY STAR ERI Target:</p> <p>"The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed. Any exceptions shall be approved by EPA and reported at www.energystar.gov/ERIExceptions."</p> <p>With the addition of this overarching statement, Footnote 1 will be deleted.</p>
00838	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Headers labeled "Insulation" consolidated with rows below for conciseness</p>
				<p>Issue: Several headers labeled "Insulation" in Exhibit 2 have their own row and may be taking up unnecessary space. These headers could be shifted down one row and sub-headings in the</p>

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				<p>rows below could be shifted to the right in order to save space and make the document more concise.</p> <p>Resolution: The headers labeled “Insulation” under the “Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces”, “Above-Grade Walls”, and “Ceilings” sections of Exhibit 2 will be consolidated with the row below them, indenting the sub-headings in the rows below to the right, to improve conciseness.</p>
00836	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Doors and Glazing Sections - Extraneous rows removed</p> <p>Issue: The “Doors” and “Glazing” sections in Exhibit 2 contain rows and a footnote stating that the SHGC and U-value specifications are based on ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights. These rows provide background information, but do not provide specific inputs to the Reference Design. Removing these details could reduce potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space in the document.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to prevent potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space, the following row will be removed under the “Doors” section of Exhibit 2: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR doors: ⁹” In addition, the following header will be removed under the “Glazing” section of Exhibit 2: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR Windows: ⁹” Lastly, Footnote 9 will be revised to remove the ENERGY STAR window reference and state “Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion.”</p>
				<p>Heating and Cooling Systems Sections – Configuration for homes with electric strip or baseboard heat</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to configure the reference home according to the Heating and Cooling Systems Section in Exhibit 2 when the rated home contains both AC and electric strip or electric baseboard heat. The current language may cause confusion, and lead some partners to incorrectly model the reference home with AC instead of heat pump equipment.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity, and specify how to correctly model the Heating and Cooling Systems according to the Reference Design, the third row in the Heating Systems and Cooling Systems Sections will be revised as follows: Heating Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump in CZ 1-6 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; and Reference Design shall be configured with ground-source heat pump in CZ 7 & 8 where Rated Home is modeled with air-</p>
00837	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	

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				<p>source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”</p> <p>Cooling Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump in CZ 1-6 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; and Reference Design shall be configured with ground-source heat pump in CZ 7 & 8 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”</p>
00835	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Internal Mass Section - Relocated</p>
				<p>Issue: The second page of Exhibit 2 has considerably more content than the first page. The formatting options for the document would be improved while still limiting the Exhibit to two pages if the Internal Mass section on the second page of the Exhibit moved to the first page of the Exhibit.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve the formatting options for the document, the Internal Mass section on the second page of Exhibit 2 will be relocated to the first page of Exhibit 2.</p>
00845	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: The first sentence of the second paragraph of this document uses the phrase “Home Energy Rating Software program accredited by an EPA-Approved Verification Oversight Organization”, and the term “Home Energy Rating Software” originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the first sentence of the second paragraph will be revised as follows: “An EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization’s Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine...”</p>
00846	11/01/2019		Refinement	<p>“EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”</p>

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		National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)		<p>Issue: In the body of the second paragraph, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p> <p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00847	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Version of Std. 301 to use when calculating ERI clarified</p> <p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when configuring several parameters in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. However, Partners have noted that it does not include an overarching statement about which implementation of Std. 301 to use when calculating the ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of and interpretations to the standard should be followed, when new versions and addenda should be implemented, and if any exceptions are allowed.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, the following language will be added to the second paragraph: “The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed. Any exceptions shall be approved by EPA and reported at www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions.” With the addition of this overarching statement, Footnote 7 will be deleted.</p>
00842	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Headers labeled “Insulation” consolidated with rows below for conciseness</p> <p>Issue: Several headers labeled “Insulation” in Exhibit 1 have their own row and may be taking up unnecessary space. These headers could be shifted down one row and sub-headings in the rows below could be shifted to the right in order to save space and make the document more concise.</p> <p>Resolution: The headers labeled “Insulation” under the “Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces”, “Above-Grade Walls”, and “Ceilings” sections of Exhibit 1 will be consolidated with the row below them, indenting the sub-headings in the rows below to the right, to improve conciseness.</p>
00930	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Doors and Glazing Sections - Extraneous rows removed</p> <p>Issue: The “Doors” and “Glazing” sections in Exhibit 1 contain rows and a footnote stating that the SHGC and U-value specifications are based on ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for</p>

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				<p>Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights. These rows provide background information, but do not provide specific inputs to the Reference Design. Removing these details could reduce potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space in the document.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to prevent potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space, the following row will be removed under the “Doors” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR doors: ⁵”</p> <p>In addition, the following header will be removed under the “Glazing” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR Windows: ⁵”</p> <p>Lastly, Footnote 5 will be revised to remove the ENERGY STAR window reference and state “Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion.”</p>
00844	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev, 09)	Clarification	<p>Heating and Cooling Systems Sections – Configuration for homes with electric strip or baseboard heat</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to configure the reference home according to the Heating and Cooling Systems Section in Exhibit 1 when the rated home contains both AC and electric strip or electric baseboard heat. The current language may cause confusion, and lead some partners to incorrectly model the reference home with AC instead of heat pump equipment.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity, and specify how to correctly model the Heating and Cooling Systems according to the Reference Design, the third row in the Heating Systems and Cooling Systems Sections will be revised as follows:</p> <p>Heating Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump in CZ 1-6 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; and Reference Design shall be configured with ground-source heat pump in CZ 7 & 8 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”</p> <p>Cooling Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump in CZ 1-6 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; and Reference Design shall be configured with ground-source heat pump in CZ 7 & 8 where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”</p>

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00843	11/01/2019	National ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Internal Mass Section - Relocated</p> <p>Issue: The second page of Exhibit 1 has considerably more content than the first page. The formatting options for the document would be improved while still limiting the Exhibit to two pages if the Internal Mass section on the second page of the Exhibit moved to the first page of the Exhibit.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve the formatting options for the document, the Internal Mass section on the second page of Exhibit 1 will be relocated to the first page of Exhibit 1.</p>
00855	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p> <p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 1, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”. 2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 1 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 1. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may

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				<p>be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.”</p> <p>3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.”</p> <p>4. Exhibit 1 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Party Responsible</th> <th>Mandatory Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Applicable to Path A & B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rater</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Builder</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹⁸</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements	Requirements Applicable to Path A & B		Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 	Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹⁸		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
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00854	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed</p> <p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p> <p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section</p>																				

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				will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements .”
00853	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record
				Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.
				Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows: “This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”
00848	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Exhibit 1 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed
				Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 1: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.
				Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 1 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.
00849	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Change	Exhibit 2 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report
				Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00782, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes.
				Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 10 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”

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00852	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Exhibit 2 - Exception for determining program implementation date in California</p> <p>Issue: Partners in California have requested a change in the date used to determine which program version a home should be certified under in that state, for a specific subset of house plans. Currently, the plan approval date and permit issue date of a home determine the Version and Revision required.</p> <p>However, over the course of developing homes on a specific tract, it's not uncommon for a builder to occasionally add new plan types to their previously-approved plan set, in response to market needs. Because these new plans will have a plan approval date later than the original set of plans approved for use in the tract, under the current policy these new plans may be required to meet a different version of the program requirements. Using a different program version for a subset of plans within a tract can result in unanticipated increased costs for partners and confusion among homebuyers about the varying efficiency features of the plans.</p> <p>Resolution: To address the challenges listed above, an exception will be added to the criteria for determining the implementation date in California such that if a new plan is added to a specific tract's existing plan set, and the new plan is subject to the same version of the energy code as the existing plan set, then the 'plan approval date' will be considered to be the existing plan set's original plan approval date.</p> <p>To reflect this change, the header of the second column in Exhibit 2 of the California Program Requirements, Version 3.2, will be changed as follows: "Homes With Plan Approval Date and Permit Issue Date On or After This Date Must Meet the Adjacent Version & Revision (See Footnote 9 for Definition & Exception ⁹)" And Footnote 9 will be revised by adding a sentence to the end, as follows: "The 'plan approval date' is the date that a jurisdiction approves a home plan and its efficiency features for use on a specific lot or tract. The Rater may define the 'permit date' as either the date that the permit was issued or the date of the contract on the home. In cases where permit or contract dates are not available, Providers have discretion to estimate permit dates based on other construction schedule factors. These assumptions should be both defensible and documented. As an exception, if a new plan is added to a specific tract's existing plan set and the new plan is subject to the same version of the energy code as the existing plan set, then the 'plan approval date' is considered to be the existing plan set's original plan approval date."</p>
00850	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest</p>

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				<p>methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p> <p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00851	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Footnote 6 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 6 will be revised as follows:</p>

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				<p>“While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00863	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p> <p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 1, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”. 2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 1 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all

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				<p>certified homes, Exhibit 1. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.”</p> <p>3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.”</p> <p>4. Exhibit 1 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Party Responsible</th> <th>Mandatory Requirements</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Applicable to Path A & B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rater</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Builder</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC System Designer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> <tr> <td>HVAC Installing Contractor</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements	Requirements Applicable to Path A & B		Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 	Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement. 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. 	Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential		HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1 	HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements																							
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Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading¹³																								
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HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 																							
00862	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed</p> <p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p>																				

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				<p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00861	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record</p>
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows: “This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00856	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 1: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 1 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.</p>
00857	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Exhibit 2 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report</p>
				<p>Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00783, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 11 will be updated as follows:</p>

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				“Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”
00858	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added
				<p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p> <p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00859	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 6 - Old date-dependent policies removed
				<p>Issue: Footnote 6 refers to a date-dependent policy that is three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. This policy is unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 6 will be deleted: “If permitted prior to July 1, 2012, units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade may earn the ENERGY STAR through the Certified Homes Program or Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, without assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.”</p> <p>Although this policy will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that this date-dependent policy would be applicable, the home may still use this policy.</p>
00860	11/01/2019	California Program Requirements	Clarification	Footnote 7 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program</p>

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		(Version 3.1, Rev. 09)		<p>requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 7 will be revised as follows: “While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00877	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements	Change	<p>HVAC grading path integrated into program</p> <p>Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to</p>

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		<p>(Version 3.1, Rev. 09)</p>	<p>complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III.</p> <p>For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 2, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”. 2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 2 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 2. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.” 3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.” 4. Exhibit 2 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:
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				Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements
				Requirements Applicable to Path A & B	
				Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
				Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading ¹³	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement.
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310.
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
00871	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed	
				<p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p> <p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>	
00876	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section - “EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”	
				<p>Issue: In the “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in several locations in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>	

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				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00870	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 1 - “Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: Step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process for Florida uses the term “Home Energy Rating Software” which originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the last sentence of step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process for Florida will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Use an EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)’s Approved Software Rating Tool to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, which is the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR.”</p>
00875	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record</p>
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00864	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 - Supplemental footnote removed</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” is used to model particular parameters of the ENERGY STAR</p>

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		(Version 3.1, Rev. 09)		<p>Reference Design. While this supplemental information may be helpful for a small subset of partners, including language about modeling in this document rather than the ERI Target Procedure program documents may cause confusion and inadvertent misalignment between the two.</p> <p>Resolution: To simplify this document and centralize all guidance regarding modeling of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design within the ERI Target Procedure program documents, Footnote 12 will be deleted.</p>
00865	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 2 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.</p> <p>Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 2 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.</p>
00866	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Exhibit 3 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report</p> <p>Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00784, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes</p> <p>Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 14 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”</p>
00867	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p>

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				<p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00868	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 6 & 8 - Old date-dependent policies removed
				<p>Issue: Footnote 6 and 8 refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 6 will be deleted:</p> <p>“If permitted prior to July 1, 2012, units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade may earn the ENERGY STAR through the Certified Homes Program or Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, without assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.”</p> <p>And Footnote 8 will be deleted:</p> <p>“Prior to Rev. 06, homes were permitted to be certified using either a Prescriptive Path or a Performance Path. Homes with a permit date on or after 60 days after the release of Rev. 06 shall only use the Performance Path, which has been renamed the ENERGY STAR Certification Process. To minimize disruption to projects that are in process, homes with a permit date before 09/01/2015 are permitted to use a modified version of the Prescriptive Path in lieu of the Performance Path. For more information about this compliance option, visit: www.energystar.gov/FLv31prescriptivepath.”</p> <p>Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00869	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Footnote 7 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built.</p>

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				<p>However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p>
				<p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 7 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00874	11/01/2019	Florida Program Requirements (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 9 - Website URL added</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 9 directs partners to find the ERI Target Procedure on “EPA’s website” but does not provide a URL. This could potentially cause confusion for partners attempting to locate this document.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, a URL will be provided and Footnote 9 will be revised to state:</p>

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				<p>“The software program shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home by following the Florida ERI Target Procedure, Version 3.1 (Rev. 09), available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00882	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: The first sentence of the second paragraph of this document uses the phrase “Home Energy Rating Software program accredited by an EPA-Approved Verification Oversight Organization”, and the term “Home Energy Rating Software” originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the first sentence of the second paragraph will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“An EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization’s Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine...”</p>
00881	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”</p>
				<p>Issue: In the body of the second paragraph, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00873	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Version of Std. 301 to use when calculating ERI clarified</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when configuring several parameters in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. However, Partners have noted that it does not include an overarching statement about which implementation of Std. 301 to use when calculating the</p>

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				<p>ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of and interpretations to the standard should be followed, when new versions and addenda should be implemented, and if any exceptions are allowed.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, the following language will be added to the second paragraph: “The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed. Any exceptions shall be approved by EPA and reported at www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions.” With the addition of this overarching statement, Footnote 7 will be deleted.</p>
00879	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Headers labeled “Insulation” consolidated with rows below for conciseness</p>
				<p>Issue: Several headers labeled “Insulation” in Exhibit 1 have their own row and may be taking up unnecessary space. These headers could be shifted down one row and sub-headings in the rows below could be shifted to the right in order to save space and make the document more concise.</p>
				<p>Resolution: The headers labeled “Insulation” under the “Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces”, “Above-Grade Walls”, and “Ceilings” sections of Exhibit 1 will be consolidated with the row below them, indenting the sub-headings in the rows below to the right, to improve conciseness.</p>
00878	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Doors and Glazing Sections - Extraneous rows removed</p>
				<p>Issue: The “Doors” section in Exhibit 1 contains a row stating that the SHGC and U-value specifications are based on ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights. Furthermore, the “Glazing” section in Exhibit 1 contains a redundant header row restating the details below it. These rows provide background information, but do not provide specific inputs to the Reference Design. Removing these details could reduce potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space in the document.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to prevent potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space, the following row will be removed under the “Doors” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR doors: 5” In addition, the following header will be removed under the “Glazing” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s: 5”</p>

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00880	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Heating and Cooling Systems Sections – Configuration for homes with electric strip or baseboard heat
				Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to configure the reference home according to the Heating and Cooling Systems Section in Exhibit 1 when the rated home contains both AC and electric strip or electric baseboard heat. The current language may cause confusion, and lead some partners to incorrectly model the reference home with AC instead of heat pump equipment.
				Resolution: To improve clarity, and specify how to correctly model the Heating and Cooling Systems according to the Reference Design, the third row in the Heating Systems and Cooling Systems Sections will be revised as follows: Heating Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below” Cooling Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”.
00872	11/01/2019	Florida ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.1, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Internal Mass Section - Relocated
				Issue: The second page of Exhibit 1 has considerably more content than the first page. The formatting options for the document would be improved while still limiting the Exhibit to two pages if the Internal Mass section on the second page of the Exhibit moved to the first page of the Exhibit.
				Resolution: To improve the formatting options for the document, the Internal Mass section on the second page of Exhibit 1 will be relocated to the first page of Exhibit 1.
00893	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Change	HVAC grading path integrated into program
				Issue: A new standard is nearing finalization, ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310 - Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems. This standard will provide a pathway for Raters to complete an HVAC design review and assess the installation quality of unitary HVAC systems as Grade I, II, or III. For a home where this standard is used to determine that the installation quality of the applicable HVAC systems are Grade I or II, many of the HVAC-related requirements in the program will be satisfied. Therefore, a new compliance path within the certified homes program that leverages this new standard, upon completion, could offer multiple benefits. At the same

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				<p>time, the original path for satisfying the program’s HVAC design and installation requirements, which relies upon the use of a credentialed contractor, could be maintained.</p> <p>This would allow partners to transition to the new compliance path as they are prepared to do so, and if they find value in the new path, while minimizing disruption to the certification process as the new path is deployed.</p> <p>Resolution: A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) will be developed within the program that leverages the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion, while maintaining the original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential). Specifically, the following edits will be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the second bullet of the Partnership, Training, and Credentialing Requirements, it will be clarified that HVAC installing contractors are required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) “for homes certified using Path B in Exhibit 2, Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes”. 2. A new paragraph will be added above Exhibit 2 to provide context for the two HVAC paths, as follows: “Two paths are provided for satisfying the mandatory requirements for all certified homes, Exhibit 2. Path A - HVAC Grading utilizes ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, a standard for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Path B - HVAC Credential utilizes an HVAC contractor credentialed by an EPA-recognized H-QUITO. Either path may be selected, but all requirements within that path must be satisfied for the home to be certified.” 3. A new Footnote will be added after “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310” in the paragraph above, to clarify when the new path can be used: “Path A – HVAC Grading shall not be used until an Effective Date has been defined by RESNET for ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310. Path A – HVAC Grading shall then use ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 310 shall also be followed.” 4. Exhibit 2 will be rearranged to illustrate the requirements that must be satisfied for both paths, for Path A, and for Path B, as follows:
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				Party Responsible	Mandatory Requirements
				Requirements Applicable to Path A & B	
				Rater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Rater Design Review Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1 Completion of National Rater Field Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
				Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National Water Management System Builder Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path A - HVAC Grading ¹³	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of an HVAC design report compliant with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310, plus the ENERGY STAR Supplement.
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. While the HVAC contractor plays a critical role in properly installing and commissioning a system, the Rater is the party responsible for assessing its installation quality in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310.
				Requirements Only Applicable to Path B - HVAC Credential	
				HVAC System Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Design Report, Version 3 / 3.1
				HVAC Installing Contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, Version 3 / 3.1
00891	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed	
				<p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p> <p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>	
00892	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section - “EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”	
				<p>Issue: In the “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in several locations in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>	

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				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00889	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 1 - “Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: Step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process uses the term “Home Energy Rating Software” which originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the last sentence of step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Use an EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)’s Approved Software Rating Tool to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, which is the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR.”</p>
00890	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record</p>
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters, and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00883	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 - Supplemental footnote removed</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” is used to model particular parameters of the ENERGY STAR</p>

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		Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)		Reference Design. While this supplemental information may be helpful for a small subset of partners, including language about modeling in this document rather than the ERI Target Procedure program documents may cause confusion and inadvertent misalignment between the two. Resolution: To simplify this document and centralize all guidance regarding modeling of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design within the ERI Target Procedure program documents, Footnote 11 will be deleted.
00884	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Exhibit 2 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed. Resolution: Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 2 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.
00885	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Change	Exhibit 3 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00785, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes. Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 13 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”
00886	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.

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				<p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00887	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Footnote 6 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not, satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 6 will be revised as follows: “While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For</p>

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				<p>more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00888	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington Program Requirements (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 7 - Website URL added</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 7 directs partners to find the ERI Target Procedure on “EPA’s website” but does not provide a URL. This could potentially cause confusion for partners attempting to locate this document.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, a URL will be provided and Footnote 7 will be revised to state: “The software program shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home by following the Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure, Version 3.2 (Rev. 09), available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00900	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: The first sentence of the second paragraph of this document uses the phrase “Home Energy Rating Software program accredited by an EPA-Approved Verification Oversight Organization”, and the term “Home Energy Rating Software” originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term. To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301. Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the first sentence of the second paragraph will be revised as follows:</p>

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				“An EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization’s Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine...”
00899	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	“EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”
				Issue: In the body of the second paragraph, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).
				Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.
00898	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Version of Std. 301 to use when calculating ERI clarified
				Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when configuring several parameters in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. However, Partners have noted that it does not include an overarching statement about which implementation of Std. 301 to use when calculating the ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of and interpretations to the standard should be followed, when new versions and addenda should be implemented, and if any exceptions are allowed.
				Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, the following language will be added to the second paragraph: “The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed. Any exceptions shall be approved by EPA and reported at www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions .” With the addition of this overarching statement, Footnote 7 will be deleted.
00896	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Headers labeled “Insulation” consolidated with rows below for conciseness
				Issue: Several headers labeled “Insulation” in Exhibit 1 have their own row and may be taking up unnecessary space. These headers could be shifted down one row and sub-headings in the rows below could be shifted to the right in order to save space and make the document more concise.
				Resolution: The headers labeled “Insulation” under the “Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces”, “Above-Grade Walls”, and “Ceilings” sections of Exhibit 1 will be consolidated with the row below them, indenting the sub-headings in the rows below to the right, to improve conciseness.

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00895	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Doors and Glazing Sections - Extraneous rows removed
				<p>Issue: The “Doors” and “Glazing” sections in Exhibit 1 contain a redundant header row restating the details below it. These rows provide background information, but do not provide specific inputs to the Reference Design. Removing these details could reduce potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space in the document.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to prevent potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space, the following row will be removed under the “Doors” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s: ⁵”</p> <p>In addition, the following header will be removed under the “Glazing” section of Exhibit 1: “U-values and SHGC’s: ⁵”</p>
00897	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Heating and Cooling Systems Sections – Configuration for homes with electric strip or baseboard heat
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to configure the reference home according to the Heating and Cooling Systems Section in Exhibit 1 when the rated home contains both AC and electric strip or electric baseboard heat. The current language may cause confusion and lead some partners to incorrectly model the reference home with AC instead of heat pump equipment.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity, and specify how to correctly model the Heating and Cooling Systems according to the Reference Design, the third row in the Heating Systems and Cooling Systems Sections will be revised as follows: Heating Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below” Cooling Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”</p>
00894	11/01/2019	Oregon and Washington ERI Target Procedure (Version 3.2, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Internal Mass Section - Relocated
				<p>Issue: The second page of Exhibit 1 has considerably more content than the first page. The formatting options for the document would be improved while still limiting the Exhibit to two pages if the Internal Mass section on the second page of the Exhibit moved to the first page of the Exhibit.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: To improve the formatting options for the document, the Internal Mass section on the second page of Exhibit 1 will be relocated to the first page of Exhibit 1.</p>
00910	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Eligibility Requirements Section - Reference to Multifamily High Rise Program removed</p>
				<p>Issue: The “Eligibility Requirements” section references the Multifamily High Rise Program, which may cause confusion to some partners as ENERGY STAR transitions from this program to the Multifamily New Construction Program, which was launched in 2019.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To reduce potential confusion, and ensure that partners are able to find the most up to date program information, the second paragraph in the “Eligibility Requirements” section will be revised as follows: “For information about other ENERGY STAR residential new construction programs, visit www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00911	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>ENERGY STAR Certification Process Section - “EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”</p>
				<p>Issue: In the “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in several locations in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00908	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 1 - “Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: Step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process for the Tropics uses the term “Home Energy Rating Software” which originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the</p>

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				<p>industry-standard term. Therefore, the last sentence of step 1 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process for the Tropics will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“Use an EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)’s Approved Software Rating Tool to determine the ENERGY STAR ERI Target, which is the highest ERI value that each rated home may achieve to earn the ENERGY STAR.”</p>
00909	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Step 4 - Reference added to Policy Record</p>
				<p>Issue: The “ENERGY STAR Certification Process” section guides Raters and Providers to report issues to EPA in the event that they are not able to determine whether an item is consistent with EPA’s intent. However, the section does not reference or guide partners to the Policy Record, a document which disseminates policy changes that arise from partner questions in a consistent manner.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To ensure that partners are aware of the Policy Record and able to access it to see the most up to date policy decisions prior to the release of a new Revision, the last paragraph of Step 4 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the Policy Record and the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program requirements.”</p>
00901	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 1 - Supplemental footnote removed</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” is used to model particular parameters of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. While this supplemental information may be helpful for a small subset of partners, including language about modeling in this document rather than the ERI Target Procedure program documents may cause confusion and inadvertent misalignment between the two.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To simplify this document and centralize all guidance regarding modeling of the ENERGY STAR Reference Design within the ERI Target Procedure program documents, Footnote 13 will be deleted.</p>
00902	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Exhibit 2 - Version 3 / 3.1 of National checklists must be completed</p>
				<p>Issue: Partners have asked which version of the “Tropics” and “National” checklists, referenced in Exhibit 2: Mandatory Requirements for All Certified Homes, must be completed.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Version 3 of the Tropics checklists and Version 3 / 3.1 of the National checklists must be completed. To improve clarity, Exhibit 2 will be updated such that each bullet point under Mandatory Requirements that references Tropics checklists ends with “..., Version 3”, while those that reference National checklists ends with “..., Version 3 / 3.1”.</p>

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00903	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	Exhibit 4 - Continued use of Rev. 08 and 09 HVAC Design Report
				<p>Issue: Similar to the change described in Policy Record Entry 00786, due to the effort required to collect the HVAC Design Report, partners have asked whether previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 HVAC Design Reports can continue to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the system design changes.</p> <p>Resolution: Because the next Revision of the program checklists will not require collection of any additional information or impose any new requirements, and will maintain or increase compliance tolerances, a design documented using Rev. 08 or Rev. 09 of the National HVAC Design Report would, by definition, meet the requirements of Rev. 10. Therefore, previously collected Rev. 08 and Rev. 09 National HVAC Design Reports will be permitted to be used after the release of the next Revision of the program requirements, so long as no aspect of the building design changes. To reflect this change, Footnote 17 will be updated as follows: “Homes certified under Rev. 10 of the program requirements are permitted to use either Rev. 08, 09, or 10 of the National HVAC Design Report.”</p>
00904	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Footnote 5 – Reference to RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings removed and reference to MFNC Program added
				<p>Issue: Footnote 5 makes reference to the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings for modeling central systems in dwelling units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above grade. However, ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 now provides the latest methodology for modeling central systems, and therefore the recommended use of the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings is outdated.</p> <p>Additionally Footnote 5 makes reference to the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, but omits a reference to the new Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to remove an outdated reference, the recommendation to use the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings in Footnote 5 will be removed. In addition, Footnote 5 will be updated to include a reference to the Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Program in order to provide a complete list of programs that these units may use to earn the ENERGY STAR.</p> <p>Footnote 5 will be revised as follows: “These units may earn the ENERGY STAR through either the Certified Homes Program, or the Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) or Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Programs.”</p>
00905	11/01/2019		Refinement	Footnote 6 & 8 - Old date-dependent policies removed

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		Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)		<p>Issue: Footnote 6 and 8 refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p> <p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 6 will be deleted: “If permitted prior to July 1, 2012, units in multifamily buildings with 4 or 5 stories above-grade may earn the ENERGY STAR through the Certified Homes Program or Multifamily High Rise (MFHR) Program, without assessing whether the 80% threshold has been met.” And Footnote 8 will be deleted: “Prior to Rev. 08, homes were permitted to be certified using either a Prescriptive Path or a Performance Path. Homes with a permit date on or after 60 days after the release of Rev. 08 shall only use the Performance Path, which has been renamed the ENERGY STAR Certification Process for the Tropics.” Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00906	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Footnote 7 - Not all code requirements must be met for home to be certified</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked whether all applicable energy efficiency code requirements must be met for a home to be certified. The Eligibility Requirements section of the program requirements states, in part, that compliance with these requirements is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. However, some code requirements address efficiency features that are within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC has a mandatory infiltration limit. While the program does not have a mandatory infiltration limit; it does have mandatory air sealing details to reduce infiltration.</p> <p>Other code requirements address efficiency features that are not within the scope of the program. For example, the 2012 IECC contains requirements for snow / ice-melt systems, pool heaters, and continuously burning pilot lights in fuel gas lighting systems. In contrast, the program does not have any requirements related to these features.</p> <p>It is unclear whether a Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified or if the Rater is also responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification.</p> <p>Resolution: A Rater is only responsible for ensuring that all program requirements have been met for a home to be certified. While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. More details about the IECC code requirements that are, and are not,</p>

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				<p>satisfied through certification can be found in fact sheets available here: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance.</p> <p>To clarify this intent, Footnote 7 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“While certification will result in compliance with many code requirements, a Rater is not responsible for ensuring that all code requirements have been met prior to certification. For more information about how these program requirements help satisfy code requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesguidance. 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 intent of 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>
00907	11/01/2019	Tropics Program Requirements (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Footnote 9 - Website URL added</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 9 directs partners to find the ERI Target Procedure on “EPA’s website” but does not provide a URL. This could potentially cause confusion for partners attempting to locate this document.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, a URL will be provided and Footnote 9 will be revised to state:</p> <p>“The software program shall automatically determine (i.e., without relying on a user-configured ENERGY STAR Reference Design) this target for each rated home by following the ENERGY STAR Tropics ERI Target Procedure, Version 3 (Rev. 09), available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements.”</p>
00912	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.1 - Partnership status only requires verification one time</p>
				<p>Issue: Item 1.1 requires the Rater to verify that the builder is an ENERGY STAR partner, but does not indicate how often this verification must occur, nor explicitly require the Rater to document that this verification has occurred. Documentation may be necessary as part of quality assurance activities at a later time.</p> <p>Additionally, requiring the Rater to verify that the builder is an “ENERGY STAR partner” could be more precisely stated as requiring that the builder has an “ENERGY STAR partnership agreement”.</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve clarity and explicitly require documentation, Item 1.1 will be refined as follows:</p>

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				<p>“1.1 Rater has verified and documented that builder has an ENERGY STAR partnership agreement using energystar.gov/partnerlocator.”</p> <p>To clarify how often the verification must occur, a new Footnote will be added, as follows: “Raters are only required to document the partnership status of a builder once, for the first home that the Rater certifies for them.”</p>
00913	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.2 - HVAC credential status requires verification annually</p> <p>Issue: Item 1.2 requires the Rater to verify that the HVAC contractor holds certain credentials, but does not indicate how often this verification must occur, nor explicitly require the Rater to document that this verification has occurred. Documentation may be necessary as part of quality assurance activities at a later time.</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity and explicitly require documentation, Item 1.2 will be refined as follows: “Rater has verified and documented that HVAC contractor holds credential required to complete National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, unless all equipment to be installed in home to be certified is an exempted type, in which case check “N/A.” To clarify how often the verification must occur, a new Footnote will be added, as follows: “Raters’ documentation of the HVAC contractor credential must be updated at least once every 12 months.”</p>
				<p>Item 2.2.1 – Revised outdoor design temperature limits</p> <p>Issue: A partner has noted that more recent weather data from ASHRAE has been released since the outdoor design temperature limits referenced in Item 2.2.1 were first developed. Other partners have noted that the methodology used to select county-level limits could be improved (e.g., by considering all weather stations within a specified radius of the center of the county, rather than evaluating only the weather stations within the county).</p> <p>Resolution: The outdoor design temperature limits will be updated by incorporating the 2017 ASHRAE weather data set. Furthermore, the methodology will be improved by evaluating all weather stations within 40 miles of the geographic center of each county; by assigning a cooling design temperature limit of 80 °F when the selected or averaged cooling design temperature limit for a county / territory is < 80 °F; and by rounding cooling design temperatures up to the nearest integer and heating design temperatures down to the nearest integer. These revised limits will be referred to as the “2019 Edition” and will be permitted to be used with any National HVAC Design Report, and required to be used for all National HVAC Design Reports generated on or after 10-01-2020.</p>
00932	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	

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				<p>The original limits will be referred to as the “2015 Edition” and will be permitted to be used with any National HVAC Design Report generated before 10-01-2020.</p> <p>Item 4.2.1 will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“4.2.1 Cooling season and heating season outdoor design temperatures used in loads (3.3) are within the limits defined for the State and County, or US Territory, where the home will be built, or the designer has provided an allowance from EPA to use alternative values. All limits are published at energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps. Note that revised (i.e., 2019 Edition) limits are required to be used for all HVAC Design Reports generated after 10/01/2020.”</p>
00914	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 2.2.3 & 2.2.4 - Guidance added on how to determine conditioned floor area and window area</p>
				<p>Issue: Items 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 currently do not include guidance on how a Rater should calculate “Conditioned Floor Area” and “Window Area”, which could cause inadvertent discrepancies between the values determined by them and by HVAC designers on the HVAC Design Report.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Raters are required to calculate these values using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 2.2.3 as follows:</p> <p>“Conditioned Floor Area for the home to be certified shall be calculated in accordance with the definition in ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.”</p> <p>A new footnote will be added to Item 2.2.4 as follows:</p> <p>“Window area for the home to be certified shall be calculated in accordance with the on-site inspection protocol provided in Normative Appendix B of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.”</p>
00915	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 1.1 – Requirements clarified for installed equipment that is not exempted</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 4 of Item 1.1 currently addresses what to do if the installed equipment does not match the National HVAC Design Report (HVAC-D). However, it does not provide guidance in the rare case where the specified equipment was an exempted type, as defined in Footnote 2 of the Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist (Rater-D), but the installed equipment is not exempted.</p> <p>In such cases, the Rater must re-review the Rater-D to ensure that all requirements have been met; specifically, that the contractor is credentialed, that the previously exempted sections of the HVAC-D have been completed, and that the revised report meets the design tolerances in Section 2 of the Rater-D.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: To clarify that additional items must be verified in the case where the specified HVAC equipment was an exempted type, but the installed equipment is not, a new sentence will be added after the first sentence of Footnote 4, as follows:</p> <p>“If installed equipment does not match the National HVAC Design Report, then prior to certification the Rater shall obtain written approval from the designer (e.g., email, updated National HVAC Design Report) confirming that the installed equipment meets the requirements of the National HVAC Design Report. In addition, if “N/A” was selected for Item 1.2 of the Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist, then the Rater shall verify that all installed equipment is an exempted type per Footnote 2 of that Checklist or, if not an exempted type, shall re-review the Tropics Rater Design Review Checklist to ensure compliance with all requirements (e.g., contractor credential, full completion of HVAC Design Report, HVAC design tolerances).</p> <p>In cases where the condenser unit is installed after the time of inspection by the Rater, the HVAC manufacturer and model numbers on installed equipment can be documented through the use of photographs provided by the HVAC Contractor after installation is complete.”</p>
00919	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 2.2 - Bedroom pressure-balancing not applicable to non-ducted systems</p>
				<p>Issue: Footnote 7 defines, in part, exemptions to the bedroom pressure-balancing requirements in Item 2.2. Stated exemptions include ventilation ducts and exhaust ducts. However, the bedroom pressure-balancing requirements are also not applicable to non-ducted systems, because non-ducted systems would not create pressure imbalances. This intent is only implied in this Footnote, while it is explicitly stated in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to improve clarity and align with the language used in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program, an explicit exemption for non-ducted systems will be added to Footnote 7 as follows:</p> <p>“Item 2.2 does not apply to ventilation ducts, exhaust ducts, or non-ducted systems. For an HVAC system with a multi-speed fan, the highest design fan speed shall be used when verifying this requirement. When verifying this requirement, doors separating bedrooms from the main body of the house (e.g., a door between a bedroom and a hallway) shall be closed and doors to rooms that can only be entered from the bedroom (e.g., a closet, a bathroom) shall be open. As an alternative to the ± 3 Pa limit, a Rater-measured pressure differential ≥ -5 Pa and $\leq +5$ Pa is permitted to be used for bedrooms with a design airflow ≥ 150 CFM. The Rater-measured pressure shall be rounded to the nearest whole number to assess compliance.”</p>
00920	11/01/2019		Clarification	<p>Item 2.4, 2.5, 3.1 & Section 4 - Version of Std. 301 and Std. 380 to use during field inspections</p>

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		Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)		<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when assessing compliance with insulation installation grades. It also identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 that is utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when measuring duct leakage, whole-house ventilation air flow, and local exhaust air flows. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of, and interpretations to, the standard should be followed, and when new versions and addenda should be implemented.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, the Footnote 9, referenced by Items 2.4 and 2.5; and Footnote 15, referenced by Item 3.1 and Section 4; will be updated.</p> <p>Footnote 9 will be revised as follows: “Items 2.4 and 2.5 only apply to heating, cooling, and balanced ventilation ducts. Duct leakage shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 380 shall also be followed. Leakage limits shall be assessed on a per-system, rather than per-home, basis. For <u>balanced ventilation ducts</u> that are not connected to space heating or cooling systems, a Rater is permitted to visually verify, in lieu of duct leakage testing, that all seams and connections are sealed with mastic or metal tape and all duct boots are sealed to floor, wall, or ceiling using caulk, foam, or mastic tape.</p> Footnote 15 will be revised as follows: “The whole-house ventilation air flow and local exhaust air flows shall be determined and documented by a Rater using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 380 shall also be followed.”
00921	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Item 2.4, 2.5, & 4.1 - Old date-dependent policies removed</p> <p>Issue: Footnote 11, referenced by Items 2.4 and 2.5; Footnote 12, referenced by Item 2.4; and Footnote 24, referenced by Item 4.1; refer to date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of the next Revision. These policies are unlikely to be relevant to homes currently undergoing certification.</p> <p>Resolution: For the sake of conciseness and clarity, Footnote 11 will be deleted: “For a home certified in the State of ID, MT, OR, or WA that is permitted before 01/01/2016, as an alternate to Rater-verified duct leakage, a PTCS® Duct Sealing Certification Form is permitted to be collected by the Home Energy Rater.”</p>

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				<p>And the following sentence from Footnote 12 will be deleted: “<u>For homes permitted through 12/31/2013:</u> Homes are permitted to be certified if rough-in leakage is ≤ 6 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or ≤ 60 CFM25, with air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ductwork, & duct boots installed.”</p> <p>And the following language from Footnote 24 will be deleted: “<u>For homes permitted through 01/01/2014:</u> Homes are permitted to be certified without enforcement of this Item to provide partners with additional time to integrate this feature into their homes. <u>For homes permitted on or after 01/01/2014:</u>”</p> <p>Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, if a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.</p>
00916	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	Item 2.5 - Exemptions for duct leakage testing aligned with ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standards
				<p>Issue: A question has arisen as to whether the two current program-specific exemptions to testing of duct leakage to the outdoors should be revised to align with policies contained in ANSI standards.</p> <p>ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019 contains an alternative to testing that has prerequisites that generally mirror the first program-specific exemption. This standard also contains an alternative to testing that mirrors current policy in the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program for attached dwelling units.</p> <p>ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 380-2019 contains an alternative to testing that generally mirrors the second program-specific exemption.</p>
				<p>Resolution: In order to improve alignment with available ANSI standards and the clarity of program requirements, Footnote 14 will be revised as follows: “Testing of duct leakage to the outdoors can be waived in accordance with the 2nd or 3rd alternative of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, Table 4.2.2 (1), footnote (w). Alternatively, testing of duct leakage to outdoors can be waived in accordance with Section 5.5.2 of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 380 if total duct leakage, at rough-in or final, is ≤ 4 CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area or 40 CFM25, whichever is larger. Guidance to assist partners with these alternatives, including modeling inputs, is available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesresources.”</p> <p>Note that a new document will be posted at www.energystar.gov/newhomesresources to provide additional guidance on these exemptions.</p>
00922	11/01/2019		Clarification	Item 3.2 - Clarifying which dwelling units are exempted from readily-accessible override controls

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		Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)		<p>Issue: Footnote 16 of Item 3.2 provides, in part, recommendations for accessibility of override controls for whole-house mechanical ventilation systems in multifamily dwelling units. However, the phrase “multi-family dwelling unit” is ambiguous because it is not an industry-standard term.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify which house types are exempted from the requirement, Footnote 16 will be revised to use industry-standard terms. The original intent of this footnote was to exempt dwelling units, excluding those that are in dwellings (i.e., duplexes) and townhouses. Specifically, Footnote 16 will be revised as follows “For an attached dwelling unit, excluding units in dwellings (i.e., duplex) and townhomes, the override control is not required to be readily accessible to the occupant. However, in such cases, EPA recommends but does not require that the control be readily accessible to others (e.g., building maintenance staff) in lieu of the occupant.”</p>
00917	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Change	<p>Item 4.1 - Prescriptive kitchen range hood duct sizing for noncircular ducts added</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on whether a builder can utilize a rectangular hard smooth duct in order to meet Compliance Option 3 in the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, referenced by Item 4.1 and Footnote 24. This compliance option provides a prescriptive duct sizing option for fans without a rated airflow rate, but only for circular ducts. The prescriptive sizing requirements come from Table 5.3 in ASHRAE 62.2. The 2016 edition of this standard includes a footnote that states, “For noncircular ducts, calculate the diameter as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter.”</p> <p>Resolution: To improve clarity and provide a prescriptive duct sizing option for noncircular ducts, Compliance Option 3 will be revised to specify that a rectangular duct may be used if the equivalent diameter is 6 in. or greater, where equivalent diameter is calculated as four times the cross-sectional area divided by the perimeter. These changes will be made to the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, and no edits will be made to the Tropics Rater Field Checklist.</p>
00918	11/01/2019	Tropics Rater Field Checklist (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Item 4.1 - Prescriptive kitchen range hood duct sizing for multiple duct diameters added</p> <p>Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to meet Compliance Option 2 in the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, referenced by Item 4.1 and Footnote 24, when multiple duct diameters are used. This compliance option provides a prescriptive duct sizing option for fans with a rated airflow rate, but only for ducts that are all the same diameter.</p>

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				<p>Resolution: To improve clarity and for ease of enforcement, Compliance Option 2 will be revised to specify that when assessing compliance for a system where ducts are not all the same diameter, the smallest duct diameter shall be used. These changes will be made to the guidance document on Local Mechanical Exhaust Airflow Requirements for Kitchens, and no edits will be made to the Tropics Rater Field Checklist.</p>
00928	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“Home Energy Rating Software” replaced with industry-standard term</p>
				<p>Issue: The first sentence of the second paragraph of this document uses the phrase “Home Energy Rating Software program accredited by an EPA-Approved Verification Oversight Organization”, and the term “Home Energy Rating Software” originates from a Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) defined term.</p> <p>To date, RESNET is the only national EPA-recognized Verification Oversight Organization (VOO), though EPA has provided a process by which other VOO’s can be recognized. In addition, when Version 3 of the program requirements was first released, the Home Energy Rating System was a proprietary standard. Since that time, RESNET has created an ANSI-standard version – ANSI / RESNET/ ICC Std. 301.</p> <p>Partners have asked whether this term should be updated to reflect industry-standard terms.</p>
				<p>Resolution: Because EPA has a process by which additional VOO’s can operate using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, references to this term will be revised as appropriate to reflect the industry-standard term. Therefore, the first sentence of the second paragraph will be revised as follows:</p> <p>“An EPA-Recognized Verification Oversight Organization’s Approved Software Rating Tool shall automatically determine...”</p>
00929	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>“EPA-approved” replaced with “EPA-recognized”</p>
				<p>Issue: In the body of the second paragraph, the phrase “EPA-approved” is used in reference to Verification Oversight Organization (VOO)”. While the intent is identical, this slightly differs from the phrase “EPA-recognized”, which is used in other program documents in references to VOO’s, Multifamily Review Organizations (MRO’s), Quality Assurance Providers (QAP’s), and HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organizations (H-QUITO’s).</p>
				<p>Resolution: To improve the consistency of terminology, the phrase “EPA-approved” will be replaced with “EPA-recognized”.</p>
00927	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	<p>Version of Std. 301 to use when calculating ERI clarified</p>
				<p>Issue: This document identifies that the “version of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301 utilized by RESNET for HERS ratings” should be followed when configuring several parameters in the ENERGY STAR Reference Design. However, Partners have noted that it does not include an</p>

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				<p>overarching statement about which implementation of Std. 301 to use when calculating the ENERGY STAR ERI Target. Partners have also asked for further clarity on whether appendices of and interpretations to the standard should be followed, when new versions and addenda should be implemented, and if any exceptions are allowed.</p> <p>Resolution: To clarify the program’s intent and improve consistency, the following language will be added to Step 1 of the process to calculate the ENERGY STAR ERI Target: “The ERI value shall be calculated using ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301 including all Addenda and Normative Appendices, with new versions and Addenda implemented according to the Effective Date and Transition Period End Date defined by RESNET. RESNET interpretations of Standard 301 shall also be followed. Any exceptions shall be approved by EPA and reported at www.energystar.gov/ERIEExceptions.” With the addition of this overarching statement, Footnote 1 will be deleted.</p>
00926	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Headers labeled “Insulation” consolidated with rows below for conciseness</p> <p>Issue: Several headers labeled “Insulation” in Exhibit 2 have their own row and may be taking up unnecessary space. These headers could be shifted down one row and sub-headings in the rows below could be shifted to the right in order to save space and make the document more concise.</p> <p>Resolution: The headers labeled “Insulation” under the “Floors Over Unconditioned Spaces”, “Above-Grade Walls”, and “Ceilings” sections of Exhibit 2 will be consolidated with the row below them, indenting the sub-headings in the rows below to the right, to improve conciseness.</p>
00924	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	<p>Doors and Glazing Sections - Extraneous rows removed</p> <p>Issue: The “Doors” section in Exhibit 2 contains a row stating that the SHGC and U-value specifications are based on ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights. Furthermore, the “Glazing” section in Exhibit 2 contains a redundant header row restating the details below it. These rows provide background information, but do not provide specific inputs to the Reference Design. Removing these details could reduce potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space in the document.</p> <p>Resolution: In order to prevent potential confusion, improve conciseness, and save space, the following row will be removed under the “Doors” section of Exhibit 2: “U-values and SHGC’s, based on ENERGY STAR doors: ⁸” In addition, the following header will be removed under the “Glazing” section of Exhibit 2: “U-values and SHGC’s: ⁸”</p>

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00925	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Clarification	Heating and Cooling Systems Sections – Configuration for homes with electric strip or baseboard heat
				Issue: Partners have asked for clarification on how to configure the reference home according to the Heating and Cooling Systems Section in Exhibit 2 when the rated home contains both AC and electric strip or electric baseboard heat. The current language may cause confusion, and lead some partners to incorrectly model the reference home with AC instead of heat pump equipment.
				Resolution: To improve clarity, and specify how to correctly model the Heating and Cooling Systems according to the Reference Design, the third row in the Heating Systems and Cooling Systems Sections will be revised as follows: Heating Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below” Cooling Systems: “System Type: Same as Rated Home, except Reference Design shall be configured with air-source heat pump where Rated Home is modeled with air-source or ground-source heat pump, electric strip heat, or electric baseboard heat; applicable efficiency selected from below”
00923	11/01/2019	Tropics ERI Target Procedure (Version 3, Rev. 09)	Refinement	Internal Mass Section - Relocated
				Issue: The second page of Exhibit 2 has considerably more content than the first page. The formatting options for the document would be improved while still limiting the Exhibit to two pages if the Internal Mass section on the second page of the Exhibit moved to the first page of the Exhibit.
				Resolution: To improve the formatting options for the document, the Internal Mass section on the second page of Exhibit 2 will be relocated to the first page of Exhibit 2.