



Technical Bulletin: Policy Record Update (May 2018)

The ENERGY STAR Certified Homes program regularly receives partner questions and comments and often makes improvements in response to this feedback.

The Current Policy Record catalogs these issues and their resolution. You can review this document to stay up to date between revisions. This Technical Bulletin highlights key changes since the release of Revision 08. You can use the ID # listed after each bullet to quickly find the full entry in the [Current Policy Record](#).

Key Changes

- Three adjustments to the ENERGY STAR Reference Designs make the ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target less stringent under the following circumstances:
 - Nationwide, target is ~1 point less stringent when using instant gas water heater
 - Nationwide, target is ~0-2 points less stringent for large v3.1 homes with few bedrooms due to the elimination of the Size Adjustment Factor
 - Climate Zone 3, target is ~2-3 points less stringent for v3.1 homes with a gas furnace

These adjustments do not apply to the Tropics, California or Washington ([#00642](#), [00636](#), [00641](#), [00640](#), [00637](#), [00621](#), [00638](#), [00622](#))

- Eligibility requirements for 4 or 5-story multifamily dwelling units is no longer dependent on system type ([#00614](#))
- An alternative option for filter access in attics has been added, allowing the filter to be located such that it enables arm-length access from a portable ladder without the need to step into the attic, as long as the ceiling height where access is provided is ≤ 12 ft ([#00646](#))
- When paired with cooling, furnace heating capacities are allowed to be up to 400% of the design heating load (up from 200% previously) ([#00585](#))
- The conditioned floor area used in the HVAC Design Report is allowed to be up to 100 ft² smaller than the rated home (the prior limit was 0 ft² smaller) ([#00583](#))
- In multifamily dwelling units, the ventilation override control is not required to be readily-accessible to the occupant ([#00645](#), [00629](#))

- Use of thermoplastic single-ply roofing products is allowed (#00609)
- Lower kitchen exhaust rate provided for PHIUS+ certified, PHI certified, or other homes with extremely tight enclosures and balanced ventilation (#00649).
- Triple-glazed windows are allowed in PHIUS+ and PHI certified homes (#00554)

How to Use the Information in the Policy Record

All items in the Current Policy Record will be incorporated into the program documents with the release of Rev. 09, anticipated for September 2018. 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. However, at a partner's discretion, updates published in the Policy Record may be used immediately, in advance of the formal implementation dates.

Where Can I Find the Policy Record?

There are two easy ways to find the Policy Record:

1. Visit the landing page for the program requirements at: www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements and select "ENERGY STAR Policy Record" under Additional Resources.
2. Go directly to the Current Policy Record on the ENERGY STAR Policy Changes and Clarifications webpage: www.energystar.gov/newhomespolicyrecord

View past editions of the ENERGY STAR Certified Homes Technical Bulletins [here](#).

Questions? Email us at energystarhomes@energystar.gov.

ENERGY STAR® is the simple choice for energy efficiency. For 25 years, EPA's ENERGY STAR program has been America's resource for saving energy and protecting the environment. Join the millions making a difference at energystar.gov.

