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Highlights from National Program Requirements, Version 3 and 3.1, Revision 09

Revision 09 of the National Program Requirements, v3 and v3.1, have now been posted to the ENERGY STAR website. Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, at their discretion, but must apply this Revision to all homes permitted on or after January 01, 2019.

As part of this Revision, all major program documents have been updated. A Revision 09 Version Tracking Document, which contains all of the specific changes in this Revision, has also been created. EPA strongly encourages partners to review these documents. The most substantial updates are summarized below:

National Program Requirements Version 3 / 3.1

- Criteria related to heating, cooling, and hot water systems have been removed from the eligibility requirements for four and five story buildings. Footnote 4 has been revised to recommend that centralized heating, cooling, and hot water systems be modeled using the RESNET Guidelines for Multifamily Ratings.
- The plant-certification path for modular homes has been eliminated due to infrequent use. Modular homes will be certified using the remaining Rater-verification path, which is the same path used for site-built homes. To reflect this the Eligibility Requirements section has been updated to include modular homes, and includes a new footnote defining a modular home. Also, Step 4 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process section has been updated to emphasize that some requirements will require Rater-verification in the plant, prior to shipment.
- While previously implied, Step 4 of the ENERGY STAR Certification Process has been updated to explicitly require homes to receive a rating and be registered with an EPA-approved Verification Oversight Organization.
- To help ensure partners are aware of the implementation timeline(s) applicable to the homes that they certify, the structure and format of the Effective Date section has been revised for greater clarity.

National Rater Design Review & Rater Field Checklist

- The National Rater Design Review and Field Checklists have been separated into their own individual documents.
- Item 6.2 of the National Rater Field Checklist has been revised to specify a low-end bedroom pressure-balancing limit of -3 Pa (or -5 Pa for bedrooms with a design airflow \geq 150 CFM), and a high-end limit of +3 Pa (or +5 Pa for bedrooms with a design airflow \geq 150 CFM). Any measured value between these limits will meet this requirement. Guidance on door configurations during testing has also been added to Footnote 34.
- To address the challenge of meeting the filter access requirement in certain homes with HVAC equipment in the attic, an alternative compliance option has been added to Footnote 52 of the National Rater Field Checklist to allow arm-length access from a portable ladder, if the ceiling height where access is provided is \leq 12 ft.

National HVAC Commissioning Checklist

- While previously ambiguous, a document retention period of three years has been specified for the HVAC contractor to ensure that completed checklists are available for quality assurance activities.

National HVAC Design Report

- Item 4.2.3 has been revised to allow the conditioned floor area used in loads to be up to 100 sq. ft. smaller than the home to be certified, instead of the prior limit of zero sq. ft.
- Item 4.2.4 has been revised to allow the window area used in loads to be up to 15 sq. ft. smaller and 60 sq. ft. larger than the home to be certified, or, for homes to be certified with $>$ 500 sq. ft. of window area, between 3% smaller and 12% larger. The prior low-end limit had been zero sq. ft.
- Due to limited product availability, the allowed heating sizing limit for furnaces paired with cooling in Item 4.21 has been increased from 200% to 400%. The cooling sizing limits remain unchanged.
- To clarify that exemptions for mini-split / multi-split air conditioners do not depend on the duct length, the definition of a mini-split / multi-split system has been revised to state that, while duct runs are often limited to \leq 10 ft., the length of the duct system is not a determinant for meeting this definition.

National ERI Target Procedure Version 3 and 3.1

- For both Version 3 and 3.1, in the Service Water Heating System section, the tank capacity specified when the rated home has a gas instantaneous hot water heater has been changed from 40 to 50 gallons.
- To address the challenges that partners faced in meeting the Version 3.1 ENERGY STAR ERI Target for Climate Zone 3, the Gas Furnace AFUE for CZ 3 in the Heating Systems section has been revised from 90 to 80. Additionally, the Size Adjustment Factor (SAF) has been eliminated in all climate zones, for Version 3.1 only, to address the same challenges.