



Highlights from National Program Requirements, Version 3 and 3.1, Revision 10

Revision 10 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 October 01, 2020.

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

Multiple Program Documents

- A compliance path (Path A – HVAC Grading) has been developed within the program that will leverage the new ANSI / ACCA / RESNET Std. 310, upon completion. This new 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. The original path that relies upon a credentialed contractor (Path B – HVAC Credential) will be retained. This will allow partners to transition to the new path as they are prepared to do so, while minimizing disruption to the certification process.
- For conciseness, date-dependent policies that are three or more years older than the release date of this Revision have been deleted. Although these policies will no longer be included in the program documents, they will be retained in the Policy Record. If a home has a permit date such that these date-dependent policies would be applicable, the home may still use these policies.

National Program Requirements Version 3 / 3.1

- While previously implied, Energy Rating Companies (e.g., rater companies and Providers) are now explicitly required to sign an ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement.
- Footnote 7 has been revised to clarify that, 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.

National Rater Design Review Checklist

- Item 1.1 has been refined to clarify that Raters must document, in addition to verify, that the builder has an ENERGY STAR partnership agreement. A new footnote has also been added to clarify that this process is only required to occur once per builder, for the first home that the Rater certifies for them.
- Item 1.2 has been refined to clarify that Raters must document, in addition to verify, that the HVAC contractor holds the credential required to complete the National HVAC Commissioning Checklist. A new footnote has also been added to clarify that this process is required to occur at least once every 12 months per HVAC contractor.
- Item 4.2.1 has been revised to reference revised outdoor design temp limits (i.e., “2019 Edition”), which are permitted to be used with any National HVAC Design Report, and are required for all reports generated on or after 10-01-2020. Note that these revised limits are generally less stringent than the original limits (i.e., “2015 Edition”).
- New footnotes have been added to Item 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 to require Raters to calculate Conditioned Floor Area (CFA) and window area in accordance with ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2019.

Rater Field Checklist

- A new footnote has been added to Item 1.2 that references the infiltration requirements that must be verified in the rare instance when Item 3.1.2 of the National Rater Design Review Checklist has been selected.
- Footnote 31, referenced by Item 5.1, has been expanded to address the additional items that must be verified in the rare instance where the specified HVAC equipment was an exempted type, but the installed equipment is not.
- To improve clarity, the exemptions to testing of duct leakage to the outdoors contained in Footnote 41, referenced by Item 6.5, have been aligned with the 2nd and 3rd alternative of ANSI / RESNET / ICC Std. 301, Table 4.2.2 (1), footnote (w). In addition, testing is exempted per 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 CFA or 40 CFM25, whichever is larger. Guidance to assist partners with these alternatives is available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesresources.

National HVAC Design Report

- New footnotes have been added to Item 3.5 and 3.6 to inform HVAC designers of how Raters will calculate conditioned floor area and window area, to reduce discrepancies between HVAC designers and Raters.