



Highlights from National Program Requirements, Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2, Revision 12

Revision 12 of the National Program Requirements, v3 / 3.1 / 3.2, have now been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](#). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, but must apply it to all homes permitted on or after Jan. 01, 2024.

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

- All documents containing the mandatory requirements for the national program (i.e., checklists and builder requirements), have been updated to include Version 3.2 in the header.

National Program Requirements Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2

- The implementation timeline Exhibit in National v3 and v3.1 has been updated to reflect that in states where v3.0 of the National Program Requirements is still in effect, homes permitted on or after Jan. 01, 2023, will be required to meet v3.1.
- A sentence has been added to the Eligibility Requirements section to clarify that while primarily intended for new construction, existing homes (e.g., undergoing a gut rehabilitation) are also eligible to participate in the ENERGY STAR Single-Family New Homes program, with guidance available at: www.energystar.gov/GutRehabGuidance.

National ERI Target Procedures Version 3 / 3.1 / 3.2

- To reflect the addition of dehumidifiers to ANSI / RESNET / ICC 301, all ENERGY STAR Reference Designs have been configured with a dehumidification system the same as the Energy Rating Reference Home when such a system is present in the Rated home, and otherwise without one. This avoids an increase in program stringency when dehumidifiers are installed and allows efficient products to help meet the ERI target.
- The ENERGY STAR Reference Design for National v3.1 has been revised to specify an ASHP instead of a GSHP in CZ 7 & 8, thereby creating an ERI target that is more consistent with other climate zones.

National Rater Design Review Checklist

- An ‘N/A’ column has been added to more easily allow Raters to document which Items not applicable to a home.
- The URL in Item 1.1 now directs to energystar.gov/ResPartnerDirectory, a better resource to confirm partnerships.
- Item 2.1 and 3.1 have been updated to reflect the more stringent thermal backstop requirements of National v3.2.
- In Item 3.1, the option to install insulation on top of the slab has been extended to all homes, not just existing homes.
- Item 4a.1 has been updated to reflect the final name of the ENERGY STAR supplement for Track A.
- Item 4a.2 has been clarified and generalized to convey that the design review criteria defined within Std. 310 must be met, and the explicit reference to an “ANSI / RESNET / ACCA Std. 310 Rater Design Review Checklist” removed.
- Two footnotes have been added to Section 4a and 4b clarifying the applicability of Track A & B to various systems.

National Rater Field Checklist

- In Item 3.2, the option to install insulation on top of the slab has been extended to all homes, not just existing homes.
- For clarity and conciseness, Item 9.3 has been incorporated into Item 9.1, which has been revised as follows: “MERV 6+ filter(s) installed in each ducted mech. system, designed so all return and mechanically supplied outdoor air passes through filter(s) prior to conditioning, and located to facilitate occupant access & regular service.”
- For clarity and conciseness, the rarely-used allowance in Item 10.3 to install unvented combustion appliances (other than cooking ranges & ovens) inside a home’s pressure boundary has been moved to a footnote.

National HVAC Commissioning Checklist

- Single packaged systems have been exempted from Section 2, because such systems generally would not benefit from having their refrigerant charge field-verified and often do not contain accessible ports for assessing charge.

National Water Management System Builder Requirements

- Item 1.4 has been revised to allow capillary breaks at crawlspace floors to be created using extruded polystyrene insulation beneath a slab, in addition to the current allowance to use polyethylene sheeting. This is consistent with the options already provided for creating a capillary break beneath other slab types.
- In Items 1.6, 4.3, and Footnote 6, the phrase “air permeable” has been replaced with “vapor permeable” to more accurately reflect the original intent, and align with terminology used in the Indoor airPLUS program.