



Highlights from Version 3, Revision 07

Revision 07 of the v3 guidelines has now been posted to the [ENERGY STAR website](http://www.energystar.gov). Partners are permitted to use this Revision immediately, at their discretion, but must apply this Revision to all homes permitted on or after August 01, 2013.

As part of this Revision, all major program documents have been updated. A Revision 07 Version Tracking Document, containing 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:

Multiple Program Documents

- Through coordination between EPA's ENERGY STAR Certified Homes (ES) and Indoor airPLUS (IAP) programs, prior allowances to complete certain ES requirements in lieu of IAP requirements, & vice versa, have been deleted and unintentional discrepancies have been aligned. This will ease compliance for homes that earn both labels.
- For an existing home (e.g., a home undergoing a gut rehab.), several alternative compliance pathways have been added for specific checklist Items. These revisions will only impact partners certifying existing homes.

Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist

- As reflected in a new Footnote for Item 3.1.3, an exterior air barrier is not required for attic knee walls that are ≤ 24 inches in height (e.g., tray ceiling) if an interior air barrier is provided and insulation extends in all directions from the top of this interior air barrier into unconditioned space at the following levels: CZ 1-5: $\geq R-21$; CZ 6-8: $\geq R-30$.
- Item 4.4 and its sub-Items have been refined by moving information from the Footnotes directly into the checklist Items. Additionally, Footnote 12, which exempts up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area from the reduced thermal bridging req.'s, has been relocated to Items 4.4.1 through 4.4.4 to clarify that it only applies to these Items.
- Because the potential for air leakage beneath below-grade sill plates is significantly reduced relative to above-grade sill plates, below-grade sill plates have been exempted from the air sealing requirements of Item 5.2.1.

HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist

- Footnote 1 has been revised to clarify that the Checklist is applicable to ventilation systems; to split AC's, unitary AC's, air-source heat pumps, & water-source (i.e., geothermal) heat pumps $\leq 65,000$ Btu / h with forced-air distribution systems (i.e., ducts); and to furnaces $\leq 225,000$ Btu / h with forced-air distribution systems. All other permutations of equipment (e.g., boilers, mini-split / multi-split systems) and distribution systems are exempt.
- A line has been added to the signature block that allows contractors to indicate their credentialing organization.
- Because the allowance to calculate worst-case loads and room airflow has expired, Footnote 8 has been updated.

HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist

- An alternative test option has been added to Item 4.1 for partners to measure total duct leakage when the HVAC system is at 'rough-in', if they so choose, where 'rough-in' is defined as when the air handler and all ductwork, building cavities used as ductwork, and duct boots are installed. To comply with this option, a reduced leakage limit of 4 CFM per 100 square feet of CFA must be met and the Rater must visually verify at final inspection that all duct boots are sealed to the finished surface. Additional details are provided in the Version Tracking Document.
- A Footnote has been added to Item 4.1 allowing registers atop carpets to be removed & the face of the duct boot temporarily sealed during testing. When this occurs, the Rater must visually verify that the gap between the boot and subfloor has been durably sealed (e.g. using mastic or caulk) to prevent leakage during normal operation.
- A new Footnote has been added to Item 8.1 that exempts homes permitted through 01/01/2014 from the kitchen exhaust requirement. Homes permitted on or after this date must meet this requirement; however, alternative compliance options based on the prescriptive duct sizing requirements of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 have been added.
- Because the availability of kitchen exhaust fans with sound ratings is still limited, EPA will recommend, but not require, that Item 9.1 & 9.2 be met for kitchen exhaust fans. Footnote 31 has been revised to reflect this change.
- Because the allowance to deviate from ACCA Manual J design temps. has expired, Footnote 3 has been deleted.
- Because the allowance to not include pressure-balancing features has expired, Footnote 14 has been deleted.

Water Management System Builder Checklist

- Item 1.8 has been revised to require that new homes have a drain tile on the exterior, not interior, side of footings.
- In consultation with the Indoor airPLUS program, an exemption has been added to Item 4.4 for sap stain fungi, and guidance on mold removal for other types of mold has been improved.