

ENERGY STAR® Single-Family New Homes HVAC Grading for HVAC Designers



Overview

An exciting new option for meeting ENERGY STAR HVAC design and commissioning requirements is here. This option, called “Track A - HVAC Grading,” leverages ANSI / RESNET / ACCA / ICC Standard 310 for grading the installation of HVAC systems. Standard 310 integrates an HVAC design review and four sequential field tasks into a standard energy rating. Properly installed HVAC systems will be rewarded with better scores, which can help meet the ENERGY STAR ERI target.



The Five Key Sequential Tasks in Standard 310

Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Task 4	Task 5
Design Review	Total Duct Leakage	Blower Fan Airflow	Blower Fan Watt Draw	Refrigerant Charge

This new option can be used, but is not required for ENERGY STAR certification. Partners can continue to follow the original design and commissioning requirements if desired, which have been rebranded “Track B - HVAC Credential.” However, for projects using the new option, stepping up from an ERI rating to ENERGY STAR certification will be easier than ever.

HVAC grading makes it easier to certify ENERGY STAR single-family new homes:

- Integrates most ENERGY STAR HVAC requirements into an ERI rating
- Does not require the use of a credentialed HVAC contractor
- Does not require the contractor to complete the HVAC Commissioning Checklist
- Rewards proper installation with ERI points and helps meet the 45L tax credit

FAQs

ENERGY STAR Timeline: Can I use it now? When do I have to use it?

The “Track A - HVAC Grading” option can be used now. Note, though, that new HVAC design report templates that will streamline certification are being programmed into HVAC design software programs.

Partners who want to continue using the original requirements, rebranded “Track B - HVAC Credential,” may do so. While Track A offers many benefits, partners will not be forced to use it.

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What does this mean for me?

As an HVAC designer, you'll be completing a slightly different HVAC design report, along with an ENERGY STAR supplement. However, it will look very familiar to designers who have previously filled out HVAC design reports for the ENERGY STAR program. To minimize the effort required, EPA is working with HVAC design program developers to add the ability to generate the new report.

In addition, because Standard 310 is applicable to any project getting an ERI rating, and not just to those being ENERGY STAR certified, the market will greatly expand for properly-designed HVAC systems.

How much will it cost?

It should take approximately the same amount of time to complete the new HVAC design report and ENERGY STAR supplement compared to the current ENERGY STAR HVAC design report. Therefore, your costs should be very similar.

Do HVAC designers have to do anything under this new path?

Yes! The HVAC system still must be properly designed by you. HVAC designers will continue to complete a standard design report along with an ENERGY STAR supplement. It will look very familiar to designers who have previously filled out HVAC design reports for the ENERGY STAR program.

Should the HVAC contractors I work with still be credentialed?

If the builders you work with are using Track B - HVAC Credential, then the contractors must be credentialed, the same as before. Once the builders you work with have been using Track A - HVAC Grading long enough to ensure that their HVAC systems are consistently well-designed and properly installed, then contractors can discuss with their builders whether there's value in maintaining the credential.

What do I need to do next?

For now, continue completing HVAC design reports just as you've been doing. Be on the lookout for the new Standard 310 HVAC Design Report template and ENERGY STAR supplement template, which will be added to HVAC design software programs.

Learn more by reading Std. 310 at www.resnet.us/resnet-ansi/. To see how ENERGY STAR integrates the HVAC grading option into its program, visit: www.energystar.gov/newhomesrequirements and review the national program requirements.