



ENERGY STAR® RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS



DEAR CALIFORNIA STAKEHOLDERS,

In response to California's more stringent 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, EPA is proposing new versions of the ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Program Requirements for California: Single-Family New Homes (SFNH) Version 3.3 and Multifamily New Construction (MFNC) Version 1.3.

The primary changes in these proposed new versions are to increase overall program stringency and update the performance target with the following two options:

1. An Efficiency EDR ≥ 3 points above 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards; or
2. A Compliance Margin $\geq 10\%$ above 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards.

Mandatory features (i.e., the national program checklists) are proposed to remain unchanged relative to the current program requirements in California, except that higher performance specifications for common space are proposed for the MFNC program.

One mandatory feature on the national program checklists is a thermal backstop, which defines the minimum levels of insulation and window performance that a home or apartment must use. However, the CEC-approved software programs that are used to demonstrate compliance with the state code and will be used to demonstrate compliance with these proposed requirements do not calculate total building thermal envelope UA values. Therefore, EPA is also soliciting partner feedback on whether it is feasible and necessary to enforce the thermal backstop from the national program checklists for these proposed versions in California.

In addition, EPA is proposing to require that homes and apartments in California be certified through an EPA-recognized Home Certification Organization (HCO) when using these new program versions and has drafted updates to extend the HCO documentation to California.

EPA values the feedback of our ENERGY STAR partners and other program stakeholders and will consider all feedback received during the comment period. Please submit written comments on any aspect of the proposals to energystarhomes@energystar.gov using the provided Stakeholder Comment Form **no later than May 2, 2022**. Please note that all submitted comments will be posted on the ENERGY STAR website.

To view the draft program requirements, modified HCO documents, webinar presented on April 18 on this topic, and Stakeholder Comment Form, visit the [ENERGY STAR website](#).

Please feel free to forward this information to other interested stakeholders working in the residential new construction market in California.

Best regards,

The ENERGY STAR Residential New Construction Team

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energystar.gov/homes



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