

ENERGY STAR[®]

Residential New Construction Programs

Historical Document

This document is provided for reference because it has been superseded by a more recent Version or Revision. Please find current program documents on the [Program Requirements](#) webpage.

Use of older Versions and Revisions, such as this document, are typically limited to homes and buildings with a permit date (or, for manufactured homes, a production date) prior to a specified date. Consult the [Implementation Timeline](#) table to assess whether a home or apartment is still eligible to be certified using this document.

For questions or more information, contact us at energystarhome@energystar.gov.



National Rater Design Review Checklist

ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 09)

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Permit Date: _____		
1. Partnership Status	Must Correct	Rater ¹ Verified
1.1 Rater has verified that builder is an ENERGY STAR partner using energystar.gov/partnerlocator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Rater has verified that HVAC contractor holds credential required to complete National HVAC Commissioning Checklist, unless all equipment to be installed in home to be certified is an exempted type, in which case check "N/A" ² <input type="checkbox"/> N/A HVAC Contractor Company Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. High-Performance Fenestration		
2.1 Specified fenestration meets or exceeds 2009 IECC requirements ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. High-Performance Insulation		
3.1 Specified ceiling, wall, floor, and slab insulation levels comply with one of the following options:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.1 Meets or exceeds 2009 IECC levels ^{4,5,6} OR ;	-	-
3.1.2 Achieves $\leq 133\%$ of the total UA resulting from the U-factors in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3, per guidance in Footnote 4d, AND specified home infiltration does not exceed the following: ^{5,6} 3 ACH50 in CZs 1, 2 2.5 ACH50 in CZs 3, 4 2 ACH50 in CZs 5, 6, 7 1.5 ACH50 in CZ 8	-	-
4. Review of National HVAC Design Report ⁷		
4.1 National HVAC Design Report collected for records, with no items left blank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 National HVAC Design Report reviewed by Rater for the following parameters (National HVAC Design Report Item # in parenthesis):		
4.2.1 Cooling season and heating season outdoor design temperatures used in loads (3.3) are within the limits defined at energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps for the State and County, or US Territory, where the home will be built, or the designer has provided an allowance from EPA to use alternative values ⁸	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.2 Number of occupants used in loads (3.4) is within ± 2 of the home to be certified ⁹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.3 Conditioned floor area used in loads (3.5) is between 100 sq. ft. smaller and 300 sq. ft. larger than the home to be certified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.4 Window area used in loads (3.6) is between 15 sq. ft. smaller and 60 sq. ft. larger than the home to be certified, or, for homes to be certified with > 500 sq. ft. of window area, between 3% smaller and 12% larger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.5 Predominant window SHGC used in loads (3.7) is within 0.1 of predominant value in the home to be certified ¹⁰	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.6 Sensible, latent, & total heat gain are documented (3.10 - 3.12) for the orientation of the home to be certified ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.7 The variation in total heat gain across orientations (3.13) is ≤ 6 kBtuh ¹¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.8 Cooling sizing % (4.13) is within the cooling sizing limit (4.15) selected by the HVAC designer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rater Name: _____ Date of Review: _____		
Rater Signature: _____ Rater Company Name: _____		



National Rater Design Review Checklist

ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 09)

Footnotes

1. The term 'Rater' refers to the person completing the third-party inspections required for certification. This person shall: a) be a certified Home Energy Rater, Rating Field Inspector, or an equivalent designation as determined by a Verification Oversight Organization such as RESNET; and, b) have attended and successfully completed an EPA-recognized training class. See energystar.gov/newhomestraining.
2. HVAC contractors must be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO) if a split air conditioner, unitary air conditioner, air-source heat pump, or water-source (i.e., geothermal) heat pump up to 65 kBtuh with a forced-air distribution system (i.e., ducts) or a furnace up to 225 kBtuh with a forced-air distribution system (i.e., ducts) will be installed in the home to be certified. For all other permutations of equipment (e.g., boilers, mini-split / multi-split systems) and distribution systems, a credential is not required. An explanation of this credentialing process and links to H-QUITOs, which maintain lists of credentialed contractors, can be found at energystar.gov/newhomeshvac.
3. All windows, doors and skylights shall meet or exceed the component U-factor and SHGC requirements specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.1. If no NFRC rating is noted on the window or in product literature (e.g., for site-built fenestration), select the U-factor and SHGC value from Tables 4 and 10, respectively, in 2013 ASHRAE Fundamentals, Chapter 15. Select the highest U-factor and SHGC value among the values listed for the known window characteristics (e.g., frame type, number of panes, glass color, and presence of low-e coating). Note that the U-factor requirement applies to all fenestration while the SHGC only applies to the glazed portion. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. An area-weighted average of fenestration products shall be permitted to satisfy the U-factor requirements;
 - b. An area-weighted average of fenestration products $\geq 50\%$ glazed shall be permitted to satisfy the SHGC requirements;
 - c. 15 square feet of glazed fenestration per dwelling unit shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - d. One side-hinged opaque door assembly up to 24 square feet in area shall be exempt from the U-factor requirements and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above;
 - e. Fenestration utilized as part of a passive solar design shall be exempt from the U-factor and SHGC requirements, and shall be excluded from area-weighted averages calculated using a) and b), above. Exempt windows shall be facing within 45 degrees of true South and directly coupled to thermal storage mass that has a heat capacity $> 20 \text{ btu} / \text{ft}^3 \times ^\circ\text{F}$ and provided in a ratio of at least 3 sq. ft. per sq. ft. of South facing fenestration. Generally, thermal mass materials will be at least 2 in. thick.In PHIUS+ or PHI certified homes, where triple-glazed window assemblies with thermal breaks / spacers between the panes are used, such windows meet the intent of Item 2.1 and shall be excluded when assessing compliance of a) through e), above.
4. Specified levels shall meet or exceed the component insulation levels in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.1. The following exceptions apply:
 - a. Steel-frame ceilings, walls, and floors shall meet the insulation levels of 2009 IECC Table 402.2.5. In CZ 1 and 2, the continuous insulation requirements in this table shall be permitted to be reduced to R-3 for steel-frame wall assemblies with studs spaced at 24 in. on center. This exception shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - b. For ceilings with attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for R-38 and R-38 shall satisfy the requirement for R-49 wherever the full height of uncompressed insulation at the lower R-value extends over the wall top plate at the eaves. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - c. For ceilings without attic spaces, R-30 shall satisfy the requirement for any required value above R-30 if the design of the roof / ceiling assembly does not provide sufficient space for the required insulation value. This exemption shall be limited to 500 sq. ft. or 20% of the total insulated ceiling area, whichever is less. This exemption shall not apply if the alternative calculations in d) are used;
 - d. An alternative equivalent U-factor or total UA calculation may also be used to demonstrate compliance, as follows:

An assembly with a U-factor equal or less than specified in 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3 complies.

A total building thermal envelope UA that is less than or equal to the total UA resulting from the U-factors in Table 402.1.3 also complies. The performance of all components (i.e., ceilings, walls, floors, slabs, and fenestration) can be traded off using the UA approach. Note that Items 3.1 through 3.3 of the National Rater Field Checklist shall be met regardless of the UA tradeoffs calculated. The UA calculation shall be done using a method consistent with the ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals and shall include the thermal bridging effects of framing materials. The calculation for a steel-frame envelope assembly shall use the ASHRAE zone method or a method providing equivalent results, and not a series-parallel path calculation method.
5. Consistent with the 2009 IECC, slab edge insulation is only required for slab-on-grade floors with a floor surface less than 12 inches below grade. Slab insulation shall extend to the top of the slab to provide a complete thermal break. If the top edge of the insulation is installed between the exterior wall and the edge of the interior slab, it shall be permitted to be cut at a 45-degree angle away from the exterior wall. Alternatively, the thermal break is permitted to be created using $\geq R-3$ rigid insulation on top of an existing slab (e.g., in a home undergoing a gut rehabilitation). In such cases, up to 10% of the slab surface is permitted to not be insulated (e.g., for sleepers, for sill plates). Insulation installed on top of slab shall be covered by a durable floor surface (e.g., hardwood, tile, carpet).
6. Where an insulated wall separates a garage, patio, porch, or other unconditioned space from the conditioned space of the house, slab insulation shall also be installed at this interface to provide a thermal break between the conditioned and unconditioned slab. Where specific details cannot meet this requirement, partners shall provide the detail to EPA to request an exemption prior to the home's certification. EPA will compile exempted details and work with industry to develop feasible details for use in future revisions to the program. A list of currently exempted details is available at: energystar.gov/slabeledge.
7. The Rater shall collect one National HVAC Design Report per system design per plan. Regardless of whether the "site-specific design" or "group design" box has been checked in Item 1.6 of the National HVAC Design Report, the system design as documented on the National HVAC Design Report must fall within the tolerances in Item 4.2 for the home to be certified. The report is only required to be collected once per system design, even if multiple homes are built using this design (e.g., in a production environment where the same plan is built multiple times, only one report is required as long as no aspect of the system design changes between homes). The Rater is only responsible for verifying that the designer has not left any items blank on the National HVAC Design Report and for verifying the discrete objective parameters in Item 4.2 of this Checklist, not for verifying the accuracy of every input on the National HVAC Design Report.



National Rater Design Review Checklist

ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 09)

8. Visit energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps for the maximum cooling season design temperature and minimum heating season design temperature permitted for ENERGY STAR certified homes and the process for a designer to obtain an allowance from EPA. The same design report is permitted to be used in other counties, as long as the design temperature limits in those other counties meet or exceed the cooling and heating season temperature limits for the county selected. For example, if Fauquier County, VA, is used for the load calculations, with a 1% cooling temperature limit of 93 F, then the same report could be used in Fairfax County (which has a higher limit of 94 F) but not in Arlington County (which has a lower limit of 92 F).
9. To determine the number of occupants among all HVAC systems in the home, calculate the number of bedrooms, as defined below, and add one. The number of occupants used in loads must be within ± 2 of the home to be certified, unless Item 1.5 of the National HVAC Design Report indicates that the system is a cooling system for temporary occupant loads.

A bedroom is defined by ANSI / RESNET / ICC Standard 301-2014 as a room or space 70 sq. ft. or greater size, with egress window and closet, used or intended to be used for sleeping. A "den", "library", or "home office" with a closet, egress window, and 70 sq. ft. or greater size or other similar rooms shall count as a bedroom, but living rooms and foyers shall not.

An egress window, as defined in 2009 IRC section R310, shall refer to any operable window that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency. The egress window definition has been summarized for convenience. The egress window shall:

 - have a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 sq. ft.; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 in.; AND
 - have a minimum net clear opening width of 20 in.; AND
 - be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
10. "Predominant" is defined as the SHGC value used in the greatest amount of window area in the home.
11. Orientation represents the direction that the front door of the house is facing. The designer is only required to document the loads for the orientation(s) that the house might be built in. For example, if a house plan will only be built one time in a specific orientation (e.g., a site-specific design), then the designer only needs to document the loads for this one orientation.