



ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 05) Inspection Checklists for National Program Requirements

As described in the ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes National Program Requirements, Version 3 (Rev. 05), one prerequisite for qualification is that a home must meet the requirements of the four attached checklists:

- Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist
- HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist
- HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist
- Water Management System Builder Checklist (or Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist) ¹

To be eligible for qualification, a home must also meet the other requirements listed in the National Program Requirements document, including verification of all requirements by a Rater. ² Note that compliance with these guidelines is not intended to imply compliance with all local code requirements that may be applicable to the home to be built. Where requirements of the local codes, manufacturers' installation instructions, engineering documents, or regional ENERGY STAR programs overlap with the requirements of these guidelines, EPA offers the following guidance:

- a. In cases where the overlapping requirements exceed the ENERGY STAR guidelines, these overlapping requirements shall be met;
- b. In cases where overlapping requirements conflict with a requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., slab insulation is prohibited to allow visual access for termite inspections), then the conflicting requirement within these guidelines shall not be met. Qualification shall only be allowed if the Rater has determined that no equivalent option is available that could meet the intent of the conflicting requirement of these ENERGY STAR guidelines (e.g., switching from exterior to interior slab edge insulation). Note that, under the Performance Path, a home must still meet its ENERGY STAR HERS Index Target (or equivalent target for regional program requirements). Therefore, other efficiency measures may be needed to compensate for the omission of the conflicting requirement.

The Rater must review all items on the Rater checklists. Raters are expected to use their experience and discretion to verify that the overall intent of each inspection checklist item has been met (i.e., identifying major defects that undermine the intent of the checklist item versus identifying minor defects that the Rater may deem acceptable). The column titled "N/A," which denotes items that are "not applicable," should be used when the checklist item is not present in the home or conflicts with local requirements.

In the event that a Rater finds an item that is inconsistent with the intent of the inspection checklists, the home cannot earn the ENERGY STAR until the item is corrected. If correction of the item is not possible, the home cannot earn the ENERGY STAR. In the event that an item on a Rater checklist cannot be inspected by the Rater, the home also cannot earn the ENERGY STAR. The only exceptions to this rule are in the Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist, where the builder may assume responsibility for verifying a maximum of eight items. This option shall only be used at the discretion of the Rater. When exercised, the builder's responsibility will be formally acknowledged by the builder signing off on the checklist for the item(s) that they verified.

In the event that a Rater is not able to determine whether an item is consistent with the intent (e.g., an alternative method of meeting a checklist requirement has been proposed), then the Rater shall consult their Provider. If the Provider also cannot make this determination, then the Rater or Provider shall report the issue to EPA prior to project completion at: energystarhomes@energystar.gov and will typically receive an initial response within 5 business days. If EPA believes the current program guidelines are sufficiently clear to determine whether the intent has been met, then this guidance will be provided to the partner and enforced beginning with the house in question. In contrast, if EPA believes the program guidelines require revisions to make the intent clear, then this guidance will be provided to the partner but only enforced for homes permitted after a specified transition period after the release of the revised guidelines, typically 60 days in length.

This process will allow EPA to make formal policy decisions as partner questions arise and to disseminate these policy decisions through the periodic release of revised program documents to ensure consistent application of the program guidelines.

The Rater is required to keep electronic or hard copies of the completed and signed checklists. The signature of the HVAC contractor is required if any of the HVAC equipment specified on the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist is installed in the home.

The Thermal Enclosure System Rater Checklist and the HVAC System Quality Installation Rater Checklist shall be permitted to be completed for a batch of homes using a RESNET-approved sampling protocol. For example, if the approved sampling protocol requires verification of one in seven homes, then these two Checklists shall be permitted to be completed for the sample set based upon the required verification of the one home. Sampling shall not be permitted to be used for the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist or the Water Management System Builder Checklist. Instead, these two checklists shall be completed for each qualified home.

Rater Name: _____ Rater Company Name: _____ Builder Company Name: _____ HVAC Company Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Rater has verified that HVAC contractor holds credentials necessary to complete the HVAC System Quality Installation Contractor Checklist ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Rater has verified that builder is an ENERGY STAR partner
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1. A completed and signed Indoor airPLUS Verification Checklist may be submitted in lieu of the Water Management System Builder Checklist. Indoor airPLUS is a complimentary EPA label recognizing new homes equipped with a comprehensive set of Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) features. Indoor airPLUS verification can be completed by a Rater during the ENERGY STAR verification process. For more information, see www.epa.gov/indoorairplus.
2. The term 'Rater' refers to the person completing the third-party inspections required for qualification. This party may be a certified Home Energy Rater, Rating Field Inspector, BOP Inspector, or an equivalent designation as determined by a Verification Oversight Organization such as RESNET.
3. HVAC contractors must be credentialed by an EPA-recognized HVAC Quality Installation Training and Oversight Organization (H-QUITO). An explanation of this credentialing process and links to H-QUITOs, which maintain lists of credentialed contractors, can be found at www.energystar.gov/newhomesHVAC.
4. The Rater may define the 'permit date' as either the date that the permit was issued or the date of the contract on the home. In cases where permit or contract dates are not available, Providers have discretion to estimate permit dates based on other construction schedule factors. These assumptions should be both defensible and documented.

