



# Rater Design Review Checklist

## ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 08)

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Permit Date: _____		
<b>1. Partnership Status</b>	<b>Must Correct</b>	<b>Rater <sup>1</sup> Verified</b>
1.1 Rater has verified that builder is an ENERGY STAR partner using <a href="http://energystar.gov/partnerlocator">energystar.gov/partnerlocator</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2 Rater has verified that HVAC contractor holds credential required to complete the HVAC Commissioning Checklist, unless all equipment to be installed in home to be certified is an exempted type, in which case check "N/A" <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> N/A HVAC Contractor Company Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>2. High-Performance Fenestration</b>		
2.1 Specified fenestration meets or exceeds 2009 IECC requirements <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. High-Performance Insulation</b>		
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 <sup>4,5,6</sup> <b>OR</b> ;	-	-
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: <sup>5,6</sup> 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	-	-
<b>4. Review of HVAC Design Report <sup>7</sup></b>		
4.1 HVAC Design Report collected for records, with no Items left blank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2 HVAC Design Report reviewed by Rater for the following parameters (HVAC Design Report Item # indicated in parenthesis):		
4.2.1 Cooling season and heating season outdoor design temperatures used in loads (3.3) are within the limits defined at <a href="http://energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps">energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps</a> for the State and County where the home will be built, or the designer has provided an allowance from EPA to use alternative values <sup>8</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.2 Number of occupants used in loads (3.4) is within $\pm$ 2 of the home to be certified <sup>9</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.3 Conditioned floor area used in loads (3.5) is between zero 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 zero and 60 sq. ft. larger than the home to be certified	<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 <sup>10</sup>	<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 <sup>11</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.7 The variation in total heat gain across orientations (3.13) is $\leq$ 6 kBtuh <sup>11</sup>	<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: _____		



# Rater Design Review Checklist ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 08)

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# Rater Field Checklist

## ENERGY STAR Certified Homes, Version 3 / 3.1 (Rev. 08)

Home Address: _____		City: _____		State: _____		Permit Date: _____			
Thermal Enclosure System						Must Correct	Builder Verified <sup>1</sup>	Rater Verified <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>
1. High-Performance Fenestration & Insulation									
1.1 Fenestration meets or exceeds levels specified in Item 2.1 of the Rater Design Review Checklist						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
1.2 Insulation meets or exceeds levels specified in Item 3.1 of the Rater Design Review Checklist						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
1.3 All insulation achieves RESNET-defined Grade I installation. See Footnote 4 for alternatives. <sup>4</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2. Fully-Aligned Air Barriers <sup>5</sup> At each insulated location below, a complete air barrier is provided that is fully aligned as follows:									
<u>Ceilings:</u> At interior or exterior horizontal surface of ceiling insulation in Climate Zones 1-3; at interior horizontal surface of ceiling insulation in Climate Zones 4-8. Also, at exterior vertical surface of ceiling insulation in all climate zones (e.g., using a wind baffle that extends to the full height of the insulation in every bay or a tabbed baffle in each bay with a soffit vent that prevents wind washing in adjacent bays). <sup>6</sup>									
2.1 Dropped ceilings / soffits below unconditioned attics, and all other ceilings						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Walls:</u> At exterior vertical surface of wall insulation in all climate zones; also at interior vertical surface of wall insulation in Climate Zones 4-8 <sup>7</sup>									
2.2 Walls behind showers, tubs, staircases, and fireplaces						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.3 Attic knee walls and skylight shaft walls <sup>8</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.4 Walls adjoining porch roofs or garages						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.5 Double-walls and all other exterior walls						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>Floors:</u> At exterior vertical surface of floor insulation in all climate zones and, if over unconditioned space, also at interior horizontal surface including supports to ensure alignment. See Footnotes 10 & 11 for alternatives. <sup>9, 10, 11</sup>									
2.6 Floors above garages, floors above unconditioned basements or crawlspaces, and cantilevered floors						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
2.7 All other floors adjoining unconditioned space (e.g., rim / band joists at exterior wall or at porch roof)						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3. Reduced Thermal Bridging									
3.1 For insulated ceilings with attic space above (i.e., non-cathedralized), Grade I insulation extends to the inside face of the exterior wall below and is $\geq R-21$ in CZ 1-5; $\geq R-30$ in CZ 6-8 <sup>12</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.2 For slabs on grade in CZ 4-8, 100% of slab edge insulated to $\geq R-5$ at the depth specified by the 2009 IECC and aligned with the thermal boundary of the walls <sup>13, 14</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.3 Insulation beneath attic platforms (e.g., HVAC platforms, walkways) $\geq R-21$ in CZ 1-5; $\geq R-30$ in CZ 6-8						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4 At above-grade walls separating conditioned from unconditioned space, one of the following options used (rim / band joists exempted): <sup>15</sup>									
3.4.1 Continuous rigid insulation, insulated siding, or combination of the two is: $\geq R-3$ in CZ 1-4; $\geq R-5$ in CZ 5-8 <sup>16, 17, 18</sup> , <b>OR</b> ;						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.2 Structural Insulated Panels <b>OR</b> ; Insulated Concrete Forms <b>OR</b> ; Double-wall framing <b>OR</b> ; <sup>16, 19</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.3 Advanced framing, including all of the Items below: <sup>20</sup>									
3.4.3a Corners insulated $\geq R-6$ to edge <sup>21</sup> , <b>AND</b> ;						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.3b Headers above windows & doors insulated $\geq R-3$ for 2x4 framing or equivalent cavity width, and $\geq R-5$ for all other assemblies (e.g., with 2x6 framing) <sup>22</sup> , <b>AND</b> ;						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.3c Framing limited at all windows & doors to one pair of king studs, plus one pair of jack studs per window opening to support the header and sill, <b>AND</b> ;						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.3d Interior / exterior wall intersections insulated to same R-value as rest of exterior wall, <sup>23</sup> <b>AND</b> ;						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
3.4.3e Minimum stud spacing of 16 in. o.c. for 2x4 framing in all Climate Zones and, in CZ 6-8, 24 in. o.c. for 2x6 framing <sup>24</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
4. Air Sealing (Unless otherwise noted below, "sealed" indicates the use of caulk, foam, or equivalent material)									
4.1 Ducts, flues, shafts, plumbing, piping, wiring, exhaust fans, & other penetrations to unconditioned space sealed, with blocking / flashing as needed						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
4.2 Recessed lighting fixtures adjacent to unconditioned space ICAT labeled and gasketed. Also, if in insulated ceiling without attic above, exterior surface of fixture insulated to $\geq R-10$ in CZ 4-8.						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.3 Above-grade sill plates adjacent to conditioned space sealed to foundation or sub-floor. Gasket also placed beneath above-grade sill plate if resting atop concrete / masonry & adjacent to cond. space <sup>25, 26</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.4 Continuous top plate or blocking is at top of walls adjoining unconditioned space, and sealed						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.5 Drywall sealed to top plate at all unconditioned attic / wall interfaces using caulk, foam, drywall adhesive (but not other construction adhesives), or equivalent material. Either apply sealant directly between drywall and top plate or to the seam between the two from the attic above.						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.6 Rough opening around windows & exterior doors sealed <sup>27</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
4.7 Walls that separate attached garages from occupiable space sealed and, also, an air barrier installed and sealed at floor cavities aligned with these walls						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.8 In multifamily buildings, the gap between the common wall (e.g. the drywall shaft wall) and the structural framing between units sealed at all exterior boundaries						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.9 Doors adjacent to unconditioned space (e.g., attics, garages, basements) or ambient conditions made substantially air-tight with weatherstripping or equivalent gasket						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
4.10 Attic access panels, drop-down stairs, & whole-house fans equipped with durable $\geq R-10$ cover that is gasketed (i.e., not caulked). Fan covers either installed on house side or mechanically operated. <sup>28</sup>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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HVAC System <sup>30</sup> (HVAC Design Report Item # indicated in parenthesis)				Must Correct	Rater Verified <sup>2</sup>	N/A <sup>3</sup>
<b>5. Heating &amp; Cooling Equipment</b>						
5.1 HVAC manufacturer & model number on installed equipment matches either of the following (check box): <sup>31</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> HVAC Design Report (4.3, 4.4, & 4.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Written approval received from designer				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
5.2 External static pressure measured by Rater at contractor-provided test locations and documented below: <sup>32</sup> Return-Side External Static Pressure: _____ IWC      Supply-Side External Static Pressure: _____ IWC				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3 Permitted, but not required: HVAC Commissioning Checklist collected, with no items left blank				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>6. Duct Quality Installation - Applies to Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Exhaust, &amp; Pressure Balancing Ducts, Unless Noted in Footnote</b>						
6.1 Ductwork installed without kinks, sharp bends, compressions, or excessive coiled flexible ductwork <sup>33</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.2 Bedrooms pressure-balanced using any combination of transfer grills, jump ducts, dedicated return ducts, and / or undercut doors to achieve a Rater-measured pressure differential $\leq 3$ Pa with respect to the main body of the house when all bedroom doors are closed and all air handlers are operating. See Footnote 34 for alternative. <sup>34</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
6.3 All supply and return ducts in unconditioned space, including connections to trunk ducts, are insulated to $\geq R-6$ <sup>35</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4 Rater-measured total duct leakage meets one of the following two options. See Footnote 37 for alternative: <sup>36, 37, 38</sup>						
6.4.1 Rough-in: The greater of $\leq 4$ CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or $\leq 40$ CFM, with air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ducts, & duct boots installed. In addition, <u>all</u> duct boots sealed to finished surface, Rater-verified at final. <sup>39</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.4.2 Final: The greater of $\leq 8$ CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or $\leq 80$ CFM, with the air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ducts, duct boots, & register grilles atop the finished surface (e.g., drywall, floor) installed. <sup>40</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.5 Rater-measured duct leakage to outdoors the greater of $\leq 4$ CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or $\leq 40$ CFM25 <sup>36, 38, 41</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>7. Whole-House Mechanical Ventilation System</b>						
7.1 Rater-measured ventilation rate is within either $\pm 15$ CFM or $\pm 15\%$ of design value (2.3) <sup>42</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.2 A readily-accessible ventilation override control installed and also labeled if its function is not obvious (e.g., a label is required for a standalone wall switch, but not for a switch that's on the ventilation equipment)				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.3 No outdoor air intakes connected to return side of the HVAC system, unless controls are installed to operate intermittently & automatically based on a timer and to restrict intake when not in use (e.g., motorized damper)				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.4 System fan rated $\leq 3$ sones if intermittent and $\leq 1$ sone if continuous, or exempted <sup>43</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.5 If system utilizes the HVAC fan, then the specified fan type is ECM / ICM (4.7), or the controls will reduce the standalone ventilation run-time by accounting for hours when the HVAC system is heating or cooling				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.6 Bathroom fans are ENERGY STAR certified if used as part of the whole-house system <sup>44</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.7 Air inlet location (Complete if ventilation air inlet location was specified (2.12, 2.13); otherwise check "N/A"): <sup>45, 46</sup>				-	-	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.7.1 Inlet pulls ventilation air directly from outdoors and not from attic, crawlspace, garage, or adjacent dwelling unit				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.7.2 Inlet is $\geq 2$ ft. above grade or roof deck; $\geq 10$ ft. of stretched-string distance from known contamination sources (e.g., stack, vent, exhaust, vehicles) not exiting the roof, and $\geq 3$ ft. distance from sources exiting the roof				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
7.7.3 Inlet is provided with rodent / insect screen with $\leq 0.5$ inch mesh				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
<b>8. Local Mechanical Exhaust</b> - In each kitchen and bathroom, a system is installed that exhausts directly to the outdoors and meets one of the following Rater-measured airflow and manufacturer-rated sound level standards: <sup>42, 47</sup>						
<b>Location</b>		<b>Continuous Rate</b>		<b>Intermittent Rate<sup>48</sup></b>		
8.1 Kitchen	Airflow	$\geq 5$ ACH, based on kitchen volume <sup>49, 50</sup>		$\geq 100$ CFM and, if not integrated with range, also $\geq 5$ ACH based on kitchen volume <sup>49, 50, 51</sup>		
	Sound	Recommended: $\leq 1$ sone		Recommended: $\leq 3$ sones		
8.2 Bathroom	Airflow	$\geq 20$ CFM		$\geq 50$ CFM		
	Sound	Required: $\leq 1$ sone		Recommended: $\leq 3$ sones		
<b>9. Filtration</b>						
9.1 At least one MERV 6 or higher filter installed in each ducted mechanical system in a location that facilitates access and regular service by the owner <sup>52</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.2 Filter access panel includes gasket or comparable sealing mechanism and fits snugly against the exposed edge of filter when closed to prevent bypass <sup>53</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.3 All return air and mechanically supplied outdoor air passes through filter prior to conditioning				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Combustion Appliances</b>						
10.1 Furnaces, boilers, and water heaters located within the home's pressure boundary are mechanically drafted or direct-vented. See Footnote 56 for alternatives. <sup>54, 55, 56</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.2 Fireplaces located within the home's pressure boundary are mechanically drafted or direct-vented. See Footnote 57 for alternatives. <sup>54, 55, 57</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.3 If unvented combustion appliances other than cooking ranges or ovens are located inside the home's pressure boundary, the Rater has followed Section 805 of RESNET's Standards, encompassing ANSI/ACCA 12 QH-2014, Appendix A, Section A3 (Carbon Monoxide Test), and verified the equipment meets the limits defined within <sup>54, 58</sup>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rater Name: _____		Rater Pre-Drywall Inspection Date: _____		Rater Initials: _____		
Rater Name: _____		Rater Final Inspection Date: _____		Rater Initials: _____		
Builder Employee: _____		Builder Inspection Date: _____		Builder Initials: _____		



# Rater Checklist Footnotes

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### Rater Design Review Checklist 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](http://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 kBtu/h with a forced-air distribution system (i.e., ducts) or a furnace up to 225 kBtu/h 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](http://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 Passive House (PHIUS+) 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 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](http://energystar.gov/slabeledge).
7. The Rater shall collect one 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 HVAC Design Report, the system design as documented on the 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 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 HVAC Design Report.
8. Visit [energystar.gov/hvacdesigntemps](http://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



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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  $\pm 2$  of the home to be certified, unless Item 1.5 of the HVAC Design Report indicates that the system is a cooling system for temporary occupant loads.

A bedroom is defined by RESNET 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.
12. This Revision of the Rater Design Review Checklist is required to certify all homes permitted after 07/01/2016, but is allowed to be used for any home permitted or completed prior to this date. 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.

### Rater Field Checklist Footnotes

1. At the discretion of the Rater, the builder may verify up to eight items in Sections 1-4 of this Checklist. 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. However, if a quality assurance review indicates that Items have not been successfully completed, the Rater will be responsible for facilitating corrective action.
2. 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](http://energystar.gov/newhomestraining).
3. 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.
4. Two alternatives are provided: a) Grade II cavity insulation is permitted to be used for assemblies that contain a layer of continuous, air impermeable insulation  $\geq R-3$  in Climate Zones 1 to 4,  $\geq R-5$  in Climate Zones 5 to 8; b) Grade II batts are permitted to be used in floors if they fill the full depth of the floor cavity, even when compression occurs due to excess insulation, as long as the R-value of the batts has been appropriately assessed based on manufacturer guidance and the only defect preventing the insulation from achieving Grade I is the compression caused by the excess insulation.
5. For purposes of this Checklist, an air barrier is defined as any durable solid material that blocks air flow between conditioned space and unconditioned space, including necessary sealing to block excessive air flow at edges and seams and adequate support to resist positive and negative pressures without displacement or damage. EPA recommends, but does not require, rigid air barriers.  
Open-cell or closed-cell foam shall have a finished thickness  $\geq 5.5$  in. or 1.5 in., respectively, to qualify as an air barrier unless the manufacturer indicates otherwise.  
If flexible air barriers such as house wrap are used, they shall be fully sealed at all seams and edges and supported using fasteners with caps or heads  $\geq 1$  in. diameter unless otherwise indicated by the manufacturer. Flexible air barriers shall not be made of kraft paper, paper-based products, or other materials that are easily torn. If polyethylene is used, its thickness shall be  $\geq 6$  mil.
6. All insulated ceiling surfaces, regardless of slope (e.g., cathedral ceilings, tray ceilings, conditioned attic roof decks, flat ceilings, sloped ceilings), must meet the requirements for ceilings.
7. All insulated vertical surfaces are considered walls (e.g., above and below grade exterior walls, knee walls) and must meet the air barrier requirements for walls. The following exceptions apply: air barriers recommended, but not required, in adiabatic walls in multifamily dwellings; and, in Climate Zones 4 through 8, an air barrier at the interior vertical surface of insulation is recommended but not required in basement walls or crawlspace walls. For the purpose of these exceptions, a basement or crawlspace is a space for which  $\geq 40\%$  of the total gross wall area is below-grade.
8. Exterior air barriers are not required for attic knee walls that are  $\leq 24$  in. in height 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:  $\geq R-30$ .
9. EPA highly recommends, but does not require, an air barrier at the interior vertical surface of floor insulation in Climate Zones 4-8.
10. Examples of supports necessary for permanent contact include staves for batt insulation or netting for blown-in insulation. Alternatively, supports are not required if batts fill the full depth of the floor cavity, even when compression occurs due to excess insulation, as long as the R-value of the batts has been appropriately assessed based on manufacturer guidance and the only defect preventing the insulation from achieving the required installation grade is the compression caused by the excess insulation.



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11. Alternatively, an air barrier is permitted to be installed at the exterior horizontal surface of the floor insulation if the insulation is installed in contact with this air barrier, the exterior vertical surfaces of the floor cavity are also insulated, and air barriers are included at the exterior vertical surfaces of this insulation.
12. The minimum designated R-values must be achieved regardless of the trade-offs determined using an equivalent U-factor or UA alternative calculation, with the following exception:  
For homes permitted through 12/31/2012: CZ 1-5: For spaces that provide less than 5.5 in. of clearance, R-15 Grade I insulation is permitted. CZ 6-8: For spaces that provide less than 7.0 in. of clearance, R-21 Grade I insulation is permitted.  
For homes permitted on or after 01/01/2013: Homes shall achieve Item 3.1 without exception.  
Note that if the minimum designated values are used, then higher insulation values may be needed elsewhere to meet Item 1.2. Also, note that these requirements can be met by using any available strategy, such as a raised-heel truss, alternate framing that provides adequate space, and / or high-density insulation.
13. 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).
14. 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](http://energystar.gov/slabeledge).
15. Mass walls utilized as the thermal mass component of a passive solar design (e.g., a Trombe wall) are exempt from this Item. To be eligible for this exemption, the passive solar design shall be comprised of the following five components: an aperture or collector, an absorber, thermal mass, a distribution system, and a control system. For more information, see: [energy.gov/sites/prod/files/guide\\_to\\_passive\\_solar\\_home\\_design.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/guide_to_passive_solar_home_design.pdf).  
Mass walls that are not part of a passive solar design (e.g., CMU block or log home enclosure) shall either utilize the strategies outlined in Item 3.4 or the pathway in the assembly with the least thermal resistance, as determined using a method consistent with the 2013 ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals, shall provide  $\geq$  50% of the applicable assembly resistance, defined as the reciprocal of the mass wall equivalent U-factor in the 2009 IECC Table 402.1.3. Documentation identifying the pathway with the least thermal resistance and its resistance value shall be collected by the Rater and any Builder Verified or Rater Verified box under Item 3.4 shall be checked.
16. Up to 10% of the total exterior wall surface area is exempted from the reduced thermal bridging requirements to accommodate intentional designed details (e.g., architectural details such as thermal fins, wing walls, or masonry fireplaces; structural details, such as steel columns). It shall be apparent to the Rater that the exempted areas are intentional designed details or the exempted area shall be documented in a plan provided by the builder, architect, or engineer. The Rater need not evaluate the necessity of the designed detail to certify the home.
17. If used, insulated siding shall be attached directly over a water-resistive barrier and sheathing. In addition, it shall provide the required R-value as demonstrated through either testing in accordance with ASTM C 1363 or by attaining the required R-value at its minimum thickness. Insulated sheathing rated for water protection can be used as a water resistant barrier if all seams are taped and sealed. If non-insulated structural sheathing is used at corners, the advanced framing details listed in Item 3.4.3 shall be met for those wall sections.
18. Steel framing shall meet the reduced thermal bridging requirements by complying with Item 3.4.1 of the Checklist.
19. Double-wall framing is defined as any framing method that ensures a continuous layer of insulation covering the studs to at least the R-value required in Item 3.4.1 of the Checklist, such as offset double-stud walls, aligned double-stud walls with continuous insulation between the adjacent stud faces, or single-stud walls with 2x2 or 2x3 cross-framing. In all cases, insulation shall fill the entire wall cavity from the interior to exterior sheathing except at windows, doors and other penetrations.
20. All advanced framing details shall be met except where the builder, architect, or engineer provides a framing plan that encompasses the details in question, indicating that structural members are required at these locations and including the rationale for these members (e.g., full-depth solid framing is required at wall corners or interior / exterior wall intersections for shear strength, a full-depth solid header is required above a window to transfer load to jacks studs, additional jack studs are required to support transferred loads, additional cripple studs are required to maintain on-center spacing, or stud spacing must be reduced to support multiple stories in a multifamily building). The Rater shall retain a copy of the detail and rationale for their records, but need not evaluate the rationale to certify the home.
21. All exterior corners shall be constructed to allow access for the installation of  $\geq$  R-6 insulation that extends to the exterior wall sheathing. Examples of compliance options include standard-density insulation with alternative framing techniques, such as using three studs per corner, or high-density insulation (e.g., spray foam) with standard framing techniques.
22. Compliance options include continuous rigid insulation sheathing, SIP headers, other prefabricated insulated headers, single-member or two-member headers with insulation either in between or on one side, or an equivalent assembly. R-value requirement refers to manufacturer's nominal insulation value.
23. Insulation shall run behind interior / exterior wall intersections using ladder blocking, full length 2x6 or 1x6 furring behind the first partition stud, drywall clips, or other equivalent alternative.
24. In Climate Zones 6 - 8, a minimum stud spacing of 16 in. o.c. is permitted to be used with 2x6 framing if  $\geq$  R-20.0 wall cavity insulation is achieved. However, all 2x6 framing with stud spacing of 16 in. o.c. in Climate Zones 6 - 8 shall have  $\geq$  R-20.0 wall cavity insulation installed regardless of any framing plan or alternative equivalent total UA calculation.
25. Existing sill plates (e.g., in a home undergoing a gut rehabilitation) on the interior side of structural masonry or monolithic walls are exempt from this Item. In addition, other existing sill plates resting atop concrete or masonry and adjacent to conditioned space are permitted, in lieu of using a gasket, to be sealed with caulk, foam, or equivalent material at both the interior seam between the sill plate and the subfloor and the seam between the top of the sill plate and the sheathing.



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26. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, a continuous stucco cladding system adjacent to sill and bottom plates is permitted to be used in lieu of sealing plates to foundation or sub-floor with caulk, foam, or equivalent material.
27. In Climate Zones 1 through 3, a continuous stucco cladding system sealed to windows and doors is permitted to be used in lieu of sealing rough openings with caulk or foam.
28. Examples of durable covers include, but are not limited to, pre-fabricated covers with integral insulation, rigid foam adhered to cover with adhesive, or batt insulation mechanically fastened to the cover (e.g., using bolts, metal wire, or metal strapping).
29. This Revision of the Rater Field Checklist is required to certify all homes permitted after 07/01/2016, but is allowed to be used for any home permitted or completed prior to this date. 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.
30. This Checklist is designed to meet the requirements of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 / 2013, and ANSI / ACCA's 5 QI-2015 protocol, thereby improving the performance of HVAC equipment in new homes when compared to homes built to minimum code. However, these features alone cannot prevent all ventilation, indoor air quality, and HVAC problems, (e.g., those caused by a lack of maintenance by occupants). Therefore, this Checklist is not a guarantee of proper ventilation, indoor air quality, or HVAC performance.
31. If installed equipment does not match the HVAC Design Report, then prior to certification the Rater shall obtain written approval from the designer (e.g., email, updated HVAC Design Report) confirming that the installed equipment meets the requirements of the HVAC Design Report. In cases where the condenser unit is installed after the time of inspection by the Rater, the HVAC manufacturer and model numbers on installed equipment can be documented through the use of photographs provided by the HVAC Contractor after installation is complete.
32. The Rater shall measure and record the external static pressure in the return-side and supply-side of the system using the contractor-provided test locations. However, at this time, the Rater need not assess whether these values are within a specific range to certify the home.
33. Kinks are to be avoided and are caused when ducts are bent across sharp corners such as framing members. Sharp bends are to be avoided and occur when the radius of the turn in the duct is less than one duct diameter. Compression is to be avoided and occurs when flexible ducts in unconditioned space are installed in cavities smaller than the outer duct diameter and ducts in conditioned space are installed in cavities smaller than inner duct diameter. Ducts shall not include coils or loops except to the extent needed for acoustical control.
34. Item 6.2 does not apply to ventilation or exhaust ducts. For an HVAC system with a multi-speed fan, the highest design fan speed shall be used when verifying this requirement. As an alternative to the 3 Pa limit, a Rater-measured pressure differential  $\leq 5$  Pa is permitted to be used for bedrooms with a design airflow  $\geq 150$  CFM. The Rater-measured pressure shall be rounded to the nearest whole number to assess compliance.
35. Item 6.3 does not apply to ducts that are a part of local mechanical exhaust and exhaust-only whole-house ventilation systems. EPA recommends, but does not require, that all metal ductwork not encompassed by Section 6 (e.g., exhaust ducts, duct boots, ducts in conditioned space) also be insulated and that insulation be sealed to duct boots to prevent condensation.
36. Items 6.4 and 6.5 only apply to heating, cooling, and balanced ventilation ducts. Duct leakage shall be determined and documented by a Rater using a RESNET-approved testing protocol. Leakage limits shall be assessed on a per-system, rather than per-home, basis. For balanced ventilation ducts that are not connected to space heating or cooling systems, a Rater is permitted to visually verify, in lieu of duct leakage testing, that all seams and connections are sealed with mastic or metal tape and all duct boots are sealed to floor, wall, or ceiling using caulk, foam, or mastic tape.
37. For a duct system with three or more returns, the total Rater-measured duct leakage is permitted to be the greater of  $\leq 6$  CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or  $\leq 60$  CFM25 at 'rough-in' or the greater of  $\leq 12$  CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or  $\leq 120$  CFM25 at 'final'.
38. For a home certified in the State of ID, MT, OR, or WA that is permitted before 01/01/2016, as an alternate to Rater-verified duct leakage, a PTCS<sup>®</sup> Duct Sealing Certification Form is permitted to be collected by the Home Energy Rater.
39. Cabinets (e.g., kitchen, bath, multimedia) or ducts that connect duct boots to toe-kick registers are not required to be in place during the 'rough-in' test. For homes permitted through 12/31/2013: Homes are permitted to be certified if rough-in leakage is  $\leq 6$  CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of CFA or  $\leq 60$  CFM25, with air handler & all ducts, building cavities used as ductwork, & duct boots installed.
40. Registers atop carpets are permitted to be removed and the face of the duct boot temporarily sealed during testing. In such cases, the Rater shall visually verify that the boot has been durably sealed to the subfloor (e.g., using duct mastic or caulk) to prevent leakage during normal operation.
41. Testing of duct leakage to the outside can be waived if all ducts & air handling equipment are located within the home's air and thermal barriers AND infiltration does not exceed the following: CZ 1-2: 3 ACH50; CZ 3-4: 2.5 ACH50; CZ 5-7: 2 ACH50; CZ 8: 1.5 ACH50. Alternatively, testing of duct leakage to the outside can be waived if total duct leakage is  $\leq 4$  CFM25 per 100 sq. ft. of conditioned floor area or 40 CFM, whichever is larger.
42. The whole-house ventilation air flow and local exhaust air flows shall be measured by the Rater using RESNET Standard 380 upon publication and, in the interim, a flow hood, flow grid, anemometer, or substantially equivalent method.
43. Whole-house mechanical ventilation fans shall be rated for sound at no less than the airflow rate in Item 2.3 of the HVAC Design Report. Fans exempted from this requirement include HVAC air handler fans, remote-mounted fans, and intermittent fans rated  $\geq 400$  CFM. To be considered for this exemption, a remote-mounted fan must be mounted outside the habitable spaces, bathrooms, toilets, and hallways and there shall be  $\geq 4$  ft. ductwork between the fan and intake grill. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, habitable spaces are intended for continual human occupancy; such space generally includes areas used for living, sleeping, dining, and cooking but does not generally include bathrooms, toilets, hallways, storage areas, closets, or utility rooms.
44. Bathroom fans with a rated flow rate  $\geq 500$  CFM are exempted from the requirement to be ENERGY STAR certified.
45. Ventilation air inlets that are only visible via rooftop access are exempted from Item 7.7 and the Rater shall mark "n/a". The outlet and inlet of balanced ventilation systems shall meet these spacing requirements unless manufacturer instructions indicate that a smaller distance may be used. However, if this occurs the manufacturer's instructions shall be collected for documentation purposes.
46. Without proper maintenance, ventilation air inlet screens often become filled with debris. Therefore, EPA recommends, but does not require, that these ventilation air inlets be located so as to facilitate access and regular service by the owner.



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47. Continuous bathroom local mechanical exhaust fans shall be rated for sound at no less than the airflow rate in Item 8.2. Intermittent bathroom and both intermittent and continuous kitchen local mechanical exhaust fans are recommended, but not required, to be rated for sound at no less than the airflow rate in Items 8.1 and 8.2. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, an exhaust system is one or more fans that remove air from the building, causing outdoor air to enter by ventilation inlets or normal leakage paths through the building envelope (e.g., bath exhaust fans, range hoods, clothes dryers). Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, a bathroom is any room containing a bathtub, shower, spa, or similar source of moisture.
48. An intermittent mechanical exhaust system, where provided, shall be designed to operate as needed by the occupant. Control devices shall not impede occupant control in intermittent systems.
49. Kitchen volume shall be determined by drawing the smallest possible rectangle on the floor plan that encompasses all cabinets, pantries, islands, and peninsulas and multiplying by the average ceiling height for this area. Cabinet volume shall be included in the kitchen volume.
50. *For homes permitted through 01/01/2014:* Homes are permitted to be certified without enforcement of this Item to provide partners with additional time to integrate this feature into their homes.  
*For homes permitted on or after 01/01/2014:* Homes shall meet this Item. Alternatively, the prescriptive duct sizing requirements in Table 5.3 of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 are permitted to be used for kitchen exhaust fans based upon the rated airflow of the fan at 0.25 IWC. If the rated airflow is unknown,  $\geq 6$  in. smooth duct shall be used, with a rectangular to round duct transition as needed. Guidance to assist partners with these alternatives is available at [energystar.gov/newhomesresources](http://energystar.gov/newhomesresources). As an alternative to Item 8.1, homes that are PHIUS+ certified are permitted to use a continuous kitchen exhaust rate of 25 CFM per 2009 IRC Table M1507.3.
51. All intermittent kitchen exhaust fans must be capable of exhausting at least 100 CFM. In addition, if the fan is not part of a vented range hood or appliance-range hood combination (i.e., if the fan is not integrated with the range), then it must also be capable of exhausting  $\geq 5$  ACH, based on the kitchen volume.
52. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, ducted mechanical systems are those that supply air to an occupiable space through ductwork exceeding 10 ft. in length and through a thermal conditioning component, except for evaporative coolers. Systems that do not meet this definition are exempt from this requirement. Also, mini-split systems typically do not have MERV-rated filters available for use and are, therefore, also exempted under this version of the requirements. HVAC filters located in the attic shall be considered accessible to the owner if drop-down stairs provide access to attic and a permanently installed walkway has been provided between the attic access location and the filter.
53. The filter media box (i.e., the component in the HVAC system that houses the filter) may be either site-fabricated by the installer or pre-fabricated by the manufacturer to meet this requirement. These requirements only apply when the filter is installed in a filter media box located in the HVAC system, not when the filter is installed flush with the return grill.
54. The pressure boundary is the primary enclosure boundary separating indoor and outdoor air. For example, a volume that has more leakage to outside than to conditioned space would be outside the pressure boundary.
55. Per the 2009 International Mechanical Code, a direct-vent appliance is one that is constructed and installed so that all air for combustion is derived from the outdoor atmosphere and all flue gases are discharged to the outside atmosphere; a mechanical draft system is a venting system designed to remove flue or vent gases by mechanical means consisting of an induced draft portion under non-positive static pressure or a forced draft portion under positive static pressure; and a natural draft system is a venting system designed to remove flue or vent gases under nonpositive static vent pressure entirely by natural draft.
56. Naturally drafted equipment is allowed within the home's pressure boundary in Climate Zones 1-3 if the Rater has followed Section 805 of RESNET's Standards, encompassing ANSI/ACCA 12 QH-2014, Appendix A, Sections A3 (Carbon Monoxide Test) and A4 (Depressurization Test for the Combustion Appliance Zone), and verified that the equipment meets the limits defined within.
57. Naturally drafted fireplaces are allowed within the home's pressure boundary if the Rater has verified that the total net rated exhaust flow of the two largest exhaust fans (excluding summer cooling fans) is  $\leq 15$  CFM per 100 sq. ft. of occupiable space when at full capacity. If the net exhaust flow exceeds the allowable limit, it shall be reduced or compensating outdoor airflow provided. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, the term "net rated exhaust flow" is defined as flow through an exhaust fan minus the compensating outdoor airflow through any supply fan that is interlocked to the exhaust fan. Per ASHRAE 62.2-2010, the term "occupiable space" is defined as any enclosed space inside the pressure boundary and intended for human activities, including, but not limited to, all habitable spaces, toilets, closets, halls, storage and utility areas, and laundry areas. See Footnote 43 for the definition of "habitable spaces".
58. The minimum volume of combustion air required for safe operation by the manufacturer and / or code shall be met or exceeded. Also, in accordance with the National Fuel Gas Code, ANSI Z223.1 / NFPA54, unvented room heaters shall not be installed in bathrooms or bedrooms.