

February 12, 2007

Dear Built Green Builder,

During each Checklist revision, the program strives to fully research and incorporate changes within the industry that could impact the program's requirements. As this process relies on various outside organizations and their protocols to give consistency and standardization to our own program, changes outside the program can impact Built Green and the Checklist, at times requiring out-of-cycle adjustments. The following is a result of just such an occurrence.

With the very late release of the 2006 REScheck we find that there have been significant modifications to the REScheck 4.0.1 software which were not anticipated during the development of the 2007 Built Green Checklist. One of these changes has effectively rendered REScheck 4.0.1 inadequate for calculating compliance at a percentage above IECC using mechanical system upgrades. The current 2007 Built Green Checklist specifies such calculation using REScheck as one of its energy efficiency compliance methods (Feature # 1, Energy Requirement.) While there are currently two other software options by which compliance at a percentage above code can be measured (RemRate & EnergyGauge software), both these programs require data that can only be gained by conducting an energy rating.

As a result, the decision has been made to remove Feature # 1 as contained in the 2007 Checklist and the corresponding Appendix A. Builders will now show compliance with the Built Green minimum energy efficiency requirement through RESNET-accredited performance testing under the program's existing 5% random rating requirement. As performance testing of 5% of all registered homes is already required of and paid for by builder members, there will be virtually little to no impact associated with this modification (i.e., no increased cost).

There is however a change in the sampling method within the program's random verification process. With the variety of product types being built and registered under the program, from-plans ratings across product and plan types coupled with site-specific ratings across product types is the only way to ensure that each construction type is meeting the minimum Built Green requirement. While the program has always encouraged builders to engage in this practice – and many builders do – it has not been a formal requirement of the program.

With ever increasing scrutiny of programs such as Built Green, formalizing this protocol will advance the credibility of the program and its members as well as assist builders in fully understanding the performance of all their product and plan types.

Therefore, under the revised Checklist item #1 (and item #2, if testing 15%), from plans ratings must capture all plan types and site-specific testing must capture at

least one each of all product types. In most instances a builder will accomplish this new protocol by sampling each product type without exceeding the number of ratings that would be required if the 5% (or 15% under Checklist item #2) were calculated simply on total number of their registered homes. However, a site-specific test on at least one example of each registered product type is required regardless of whether the total number of ratings necessary to do so will result in a greater number of ratings than 5% calculated based solely on total registered units.

Finally, in order to award builders who have committed to higher levels of site-specific testing, Checklist item #2, "15% performance testing," will now be awarded 3 points. And under Checklist item # 3 "House meets ENERGY STAR[®] criteria..." a builder may now receive an additional 3 points if they are testing 100% of their product under ENERGY STAR requirements.

Recap of changes published as 2007 Built Green Checklist version 2007.2 (enclosed):

1. **Removal** of Checklist Item #1 and Appendix A.
2. **New** Checklist Item #1: RESNET-accredited HERS Rating of 85 points or less when using the expanded HERS "INDEX" score based on the 2006 HERS Reference Home verified on a 5% random basis as required by the program's random verification process.
 - ⇒ 5% site specific testing must include at least one rating of each product type (examples of product types include: single family detached, condo and townhome)
 - ⇒ From-plans ratings must be conducted on each plan type within a product type;
 - ⇒ Changes to plan or product types resulting in reduced energy performance of home or its components require a new from-plans rating.
 - ⇒ MUST see Guide for full requirements
3. Checklist Item #2 (RESNET-accredited HERS Rating of 85 points or less ...on a 15% or higher random basis in order to take these points.)
New requirements:
 - ⇒ 15% site specific testing must include at least one rating of each product type (examples of product types include: single family detached, condo and townhome)
 - ⇒ From-plans ratings must be conducted on each plan type with in a product type;
 - ⇒ Changes to plan or product types resulting in reduced energy performance of home or its components require a new from-plans rating.
 - ⇒ MUST see Guide for full requirements**New:** 3 Points awarded for this option
4. Checklist Item #3 (House meets ENERGY STAR[®] criteria by either the Prescriptive or Performance paths as outlined by the US Environmental

Protection Agency (Cannot combine with item #2 “RESNET-accredited”)
– 5 points
New: Additional 3 points if homes are tested on a 100% basis

We recognize that on the surface these changes may appear confusing and possibly onerous; we trust that once it is fully understood, such will not be the case. We also recognize that for many builders this is already standard practice. Most importantly we recognize that this is a change that cannot be avoided if the program is to maintain a verifiable and clear standard of performance, and hence its credibility.

Your energy rater is your best resource in understanding and complying with the revised requirements of the program; we strongly encourage you to seek their guidance going forward. If you have concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kim Calomino
Director

Encls: Built Green Checklist version 2007.2
Guide to the Built Green Checklist version 2007.2 on disc