

RESNET Rating Field Inspector Test Specifications

October 27, 2006

The RESNET Standards have been amended to create a new category of rater certification called the Rating Field Inspector. This rater classification goes into effect on January 1, 2007. A Rating Field Inspector is defined as follows:

Rating Field Inspector - A Field Inspector is the entry level of rater certification. A Field Inspector under the direct supervision of a certified home energy rater may conduct the inspections and necessary basic performance tests (blower door & duct blaster) to produce a home energy rating. This category requires the ability to identify and quantify various building components and systems.

The Standards require Rating Field Inspector candidates pass a National Rating Field Inspector Test administered by RESNET. To meet this requirement, RESNET staff is recommending the following steps be taken to offer this test on-line beginning January 1 2007. Because many of the skill and knowledge needed to be a Rating Field Inspector are identical to that of a Certified Rater, staff is recommending that a new test be not developed but rather, the current RESNET Rater test be modified in the following ways:

- Test question categories not applicable to the knowledge and responsibilities of a Rater Field Inspector will be removed from the pool of potential questions on the Rater Field Inspector test.
- The passing score will be 80% (the score for passing the RESNET Rater exam is 80% and the score for passing the RESNET Quality Assurance Designee test is 90%).

The Rater Field Inspector test will be open-book, consist of a total of 50 questions with a two hour limit and cost \$50.00 – as is the case with the current Rater test.

The following test question categories will be used for the Rater Field Inspector test:

- Building Science/Heat Transfer
- Building Performance Testing
- Air Distribution Leakage
- Calculating Gross and Net Areas
- Definitions/Energy Terminology
- Health & Safety Concerns

- Envelope Leakage
- Determining Envelope Insulation
- Determining Equipment Efficiencies
- Household Appliances
- Energy Units
- Measuring Building Dimensions
- Understanding Building Drawings
- Completing Scaled Sketches
- ID & Document Features of the Rated Home
- Specifications
- Determining Window and Door Efficiency
- Determining Building Orientation

The following are the current test question categories which will not be included in the pool of questions on the Rater Field Inspector test:

- Ethics and Disclosure
- Understanding Real Estate Financing
- Quality Assurance
- Cooling and Heating Design Tradeoffs
- Reference Home as Defined
- Energy Code Compliance
- Program Qualifications
- HERS Score Computation
- Potential Comfort Problems
- Building and Durability Issues
- Major US Climate Zones
- Projected and Confirmed Ratings

The ratios of the numbers of questions pulled from each category will remain the same for the Rater Field Inspector test as are currently used for the Rater exam.

The test question categories not included on the Rater Field Inspector test represent the knowledge and skills needed for an individual to become qualified to be a RESNET certified rater and represent the career path to advance from field inspector certification to full rater certification.