



Setting the **Standards** for  
**Home Energy Efficiency**

**Interpretation**        **“Independently Confirmed” Definition**

**Designation:**        **MINHERS-2019-01**

**Approved:**    *(date approved )* **by SDC 900**

**Effective Date:**    *(no earlier than 30 days from approval)*

**Proponent:** RESNET Staff

**Applies to:** MINHERS section 903.4.2.5

**Issue:**

**RESNET QA oversight activities have discovered inconsistency among Quality Assurance Designees when performing field quality assurance on raters and RFIs. The inconsistency stems from the interpretation of the term “independently confirmed” as it used in MINHERS Chapter 9, section 903.4.2.5. Some Quality Assurance Designees use observation of the rater or RFI’s testing (either at original final inspection or as part of a re-do final inspection for QA) in lieu of performing their own independent test. This saves time and (in the case of a QAD traveling from another market) saves the cost and hassle of traveling with additional testing equipment. RESNET Staff QA oversight activities reveal that QADs do not always pay close attention to the equipment set up and performance testing processes, and instead just casually watch from a few feet away or stop what they are doing in another part of the house to snap a photo of the “paused” manometer test result. In some cases, the QAD missed observing that equipment was damaged, mechanical systems were operating in the home during testing, filters were not removed from duct systems, and/or interior door/attic access panels were not in the correct position. Other QADs interpret that the intent of “independently confirmed” can only be met by performing their own separate testing with their own equipment.**

**Interpretation:**

The requirement of the MINHERS section 903.4.2.5 that “..., the QA Designee shall ensure that the minimum rated features of a rating are independently confirmed (i.e. confirmation of geometric characteristics, inspection of minimum rated features, and completion of any necessary performance testing)...” is interpreted to mean the QAD must confirm the

geometric features and visually inspect the minimum rated features themselves and must complete necessary performance testing separately themselves or *closely* observe another qualified individual (such as the rater or RFI) performing the testing. When observing another individual, the QAD shall observe all of the following variables:

- equipment setup
- manometer setup
- preparation of the thermal envelope
- sealing of the duct supply registers and return grilles
- baseline reading
- building and dwelling unit configuration, including:
  - interior and exterior door/window position
  - equipment damper position
  - mechanical systems disabled/filters removed
- reference tube location
- atmospheric conditions
- equipment condition
  - current calibration
  - check for damage and wear such as cracked tubing or fan blades contacting fan housing
- correct fan ring/orifice setup
- automated test setup (if applicable)

The observed testing shall be observed at the beginning from entry into the dwelling to completion of all testing. The checklist of observations is to be completed during the process.

**Rationale:**

**The above interpretation is necessary in the name of consistency and creating a level playing field given the cost and time differences.**

**The above interpretation is in line with the original intent of the standard and allows for an economical alternative that is already widely used in the marketplace today. In addition, the allowance for close visual observation of testing will make inclusion of remote QA easier in the future without having to alter this interpretation.**

See *RESNET Consensus Standards* webpage heading *INTERPRETATIONS* for examples of interpretations at: <http://www.resnet.us/blog/resnet-consensus-standards/>