



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

MINHERS Addendum 61i

COVID-19 Pandemic Exception for Onsite Airtightness Tests

Date Approved:	October 19, 2021
Effective Date:	October 19, 2021
Transition Period:	NA
Proponent:	Chris Vitro, National Director-Energy Quality Assurance
Organization:	DPIS Builder Services

Purpose:

Addendum 61i authorizes an exception for airtightness testing and is intended to apply only during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It adds an exception to the requirements of Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301 in Section 303 of the MINHERS standards and applies only to the determination of RESNET Home Energy Rating System, (HERS), ratings. The exception allows use of default values in lieu of conducting air tightness tests for dwelling unit enclosures and duct systems as well as for measuring airflow of mechanical ventilation systems in accordance with Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380. Note that programs other than the RESNET HERS that adopt Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301 for energy ratings of homes may not recognize this test exception.

Amendment:

Add new Exception 6 to section 303.1 as follows:

303 Technical Requirements

303.1 Applicable Standards

All RESNET Home Energy Ratings conducted in accordance with this Standard shall comply with the provisions of ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301.

Note: The RESNET Home Energy Ratings adopt Standards ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301 and ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380 including all of their addenda and normative appendices. See 304 Normative References. Standards 301 and 380 Addenda are effective on the date they are approved by ANSI. The Standards Management Board may establish a Transition Period during which addenda may be used. If a Transition Period is authorized these addenda must be used after a Mandatory Compliance Date designated by the Standards Management Board.

If no Transition Period is authorized they must be used beginning on the Mandatory Compliance Date established by the Standards Management Board.

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: (Exceptions 1, 2 and 3 are repealed when Addendum 42 becomes mandatory January 1, 2021 and the Exceptions below will be renumbered)

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Exception 4: RESNET Home Energy Ratings conducted in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands shall comply with the provisions of ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301, except that Ratings of homes with a permit date prior to January 1, 2022 are permitted to use a default infiltration rate of 10 ACH50 in lieu of conducting an airtightness test in accordance with Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380. In addition, for a home in the Tropical Climate Zone for which its Living Space is not serviced by a space heating mechanical system and not more than one-half of its Living Space is serviced by a space cooling mechanical system, the Conditioned Space Volume shall be defined as the volume of its Living Space and the Conditioned Floor Area shall be defined as the floor area of its Living Space.

Exception 5: RESNET Home Energy Ratings shall comply with the requirements of ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301 and its Addenda except that Ratings on homes with a building permit date, or alternate pursuant to Addendum 43, prior to January 1, 2021 are permitted to use the following exception:

When the following condition is met and documented, duct leakage testing is not required.

At a pre-drywall stage of construction, 100% of the distribution system and air handler shall be visible and visually verified to be contained inside the Conditioned Space Volume. At a final stage of construction, ductwork that is visible and the air handler shall again be verified to be contained in the Conditioned Space Volume.

To calculate the energy impacts on the Rated Home, a DSE of 0.88 shall be applied to both the heating and cooling system efficiencies.

Exception 6: RESNET Home Energy Ratings shall comply with the provisions of ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301, except during the COVID pandemic. This exception shall remain in effect until thirty (30) days after the Presidential Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Outbreak is lifted. Dwelling units with a “Date Rated” as reported to the Registry during that time are permitted to use default values in lieu of conducting air tightness testing of dwelling unit enclosures and duct systems as well as measuring airflow of mechanical ventilation systems in accordance with Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380. Ratings utilizing default test values must be compliant with RESNET’s Temporary Protocols for Alternative Testing During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Default values by Climate Zone below in table 3.1, OR
- Default values determined by the Rating Provider for a builder by metro-code area based on averages calculated from previous 120 days performance (i.e., measured data from the 120 days immediately preceding the effective date of this exception or preceding March 31, 2020), OR

- Other default values adopted by program sponsors -such as a building department, a utility program, or a program such as ENERGY STAR - as approved by RESNET.

Default Values Table 3.1

<u>CZ</u>	<u>CFM25 per SF</u>	<u>ACH50</u>
<u>1A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>2A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>2B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>3A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>3B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>3C</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>4A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>4B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>4C</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>5A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>5B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>6A</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>6B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>
<u>7B</u>	<u>0.08</u>	<u>7.0</u>

- Ventilation Airflow Rate Defaults
 - Installer-measured and documented ventilation airflow rate -OR-
 - HVI Rated equipment airflow rates