

# Top 10 List ......

- 1. Thoughts from a Rater
- 2. Communication
- 3. Thoughts from a Builder
- 4. Grade 1 Insulation
- 5. Thoughts from HVAC Contractors
- 6. Total Duct leakage
- 7. Slab Edge Insulation
- 8. Bath fan Measured Flow
- 9. Thermal Bridging
- 10. HVAC Checklists





# Understanding: it's Still Complicated

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes

National Program Requirements, Version 3.0

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 01)

National Program Requirements

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 02)

National Program Requirements

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 03)

National Program Requirements

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 04)

National Program Requirements

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 05)

National Program Requirements

ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3 (Rev. 06)

National Program Requirements

# **Fundamental Questions**

#### Is It There?



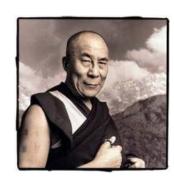
#### Does It Work?





# "Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly"

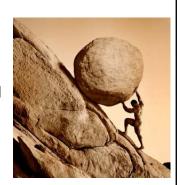
Author: Dalai Lama Date: Feb 25, 2008



(2)

### We are Raters

- Prescriptive vs. Performance
  - No compelling reason to utilize the prescriptive path
- Less Flexibility More Onerous
  - Window U-values and WFA rule
  - Energy Star qualified appliances and fans
  - Lighting 80% bulbs and fixtures Energy Star





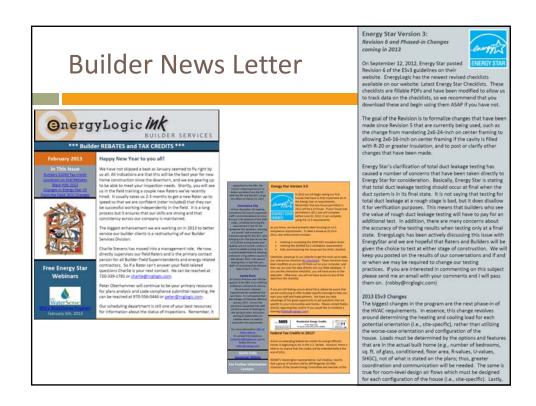
### Communication



- Maintaining your role as the expert
- Stay connected
- Get the word out first
- Continually tell the story

"They were lost but they will be found"







All,

We are in the process of completing our first ESv3 houses and it appears that the ES2.5 transition did not do all we thought it would. There are still many questions about what is required and how to comply with the HVAC checklists, a mandatory sections of the program. EnergyLogic, therefore, is offering a HVAC training in an effort to get everyone up to speed as quickly

as possible and to minimize any future road blocks. We look forward to seeing you there.



Energy Star V3 HVAC Checklists
What's required and how do you comply?

Presented By: Robby Schwarz, EnergyLogic

Robby Schwarz is a principal of EnergyLogic, Colorado's leading provider of home energy efficiency and conservation services. Working in partnership with builders and homeowners, EnergyLogic has had a role in improving over 10,000 homes in Colorado.

This presentation will ensure that HVAC contractors understand what exactly is being required of them by the ESv3 HVAC Contractor and Rater Checklists.

Builders, Architects, Designers are also encouraged to attend to ensure a common understanding across the industry.



#### **Rater Discretion**



The Energy Star Team and cooperation with Raters



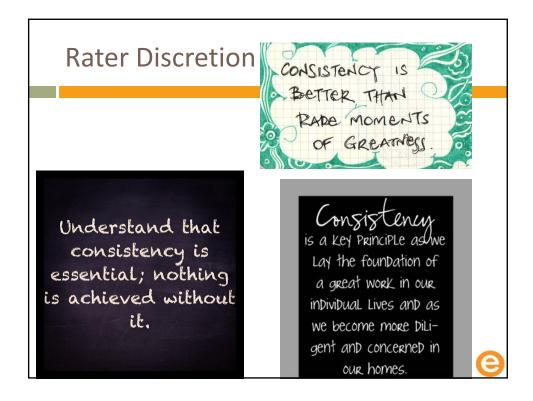
#### From the EEBA Conference ....

"I was amazed at the discretion ES is giving raters. ES/EPA wants to see progress and understands issues will arise. I believe EL is being consistent (sometimes to a fault) in insuring all requirements are met."

- Proper channel for communication
  - o One person in your organization

energystarhomes@energystar.gov





### ESv3 from a Contractors Perspective

- "I just got a call from XYZ contractor .... They are saying that Jack called them out for ....... But Neal didn't."
- Inconsistency hurts everyone
  - Time and Money



Things are Changing ... Change is Hard .... But change is Good



# Did version 2.5 help or hinder?



"In one case recently, I saw a builder who had done ESv2.5 but not moved to ESv3 who was still advertising a home as Energy Star Qualified."

- Builders and Trade Partners tended to do only what was required
- They did not look forward and prepare for V3
- Lead to second round of transitions



# ESv3 from a Builders Perspective

"I like Energy Star, but I hate Energy Star ... I like the overarching concept, but So many little details that I see no value in."



- Frustration
- Cost
- Program flexibility
- Program inflexibility
- Marketing assistance
- Some Builders have stepped up
- Boomerang effect



#### **Data Overload**

"Builders just get overwhelmed with the number of small details they have to get right"

- Intent vs. 100% compliance
- Severity of the none compliance
- Tips for success
  - Engaged these concerns and be true consultants
  - Not every builder is going to stick with the program
  - Guide them through the process
  - · Training ...... Training ...... Training



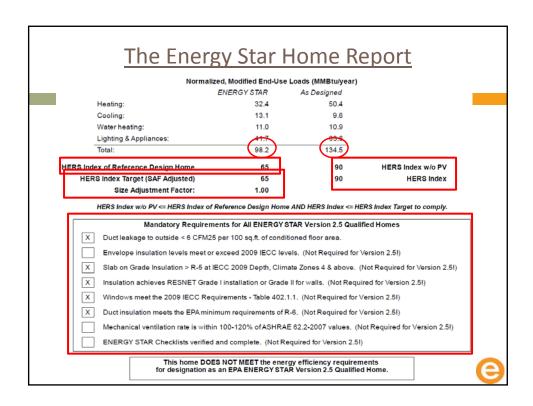
# **ESv3 Misconceptions**

"When we talk one on one with builders that are on the fence about ESv3, the reasons they have for not participating are not insurmountable. They usually have some misconceptions...."



- Every bath fan must be ES certified
- They have to use raised-heel trusses, go 24" OC, or use foam sheathing
- Water Management System Checklist is much more rigorous than code
- How to engage and work through these concerns?





### In This Case

#### **Version 3**

- 80 Move from supply ventilation to exhaust -10 HERS Index point
  - Add foundation insulation
- 72 -8 HERS Index points
  - Infiltration from .28 to.20
     NACH -3 HERS Index points
- 69 100% CFL's -5 HERS Index
- 64 points
  - Version 3 add thermal Bridging requirment

#### **House Specs**

- Foundation R-11
- Slab R-0
- Floor Blown R-43
- Rim R-19
- Walls blown R-23
- Windows U-35/SHGC.36
- Doors R-5/ R-2.2
- Attic R-38
- Furnace 92.1 AFUE w/ 100 CFM LTO
- Water Heater 62 EF
- AC 13 Seer
- 0.20 NACH & Ventilation
- Default appliances 100% CFL



### What does Grade 1 insulation mean?

"An Insulation contractors told me the other day that some Raters say Batts can never get a grade 1."

Can Batts be used and can they meet the 2009 IECC insulation levels?

"Some Insulators are telling Builders that batts rarely get grade 1 and upsell them to a blown in product. They know how difficult it is to install batts. I still think batts need to be a viable option for builders."

• Quote form a QAD:

"I have seen Raters make very different judgment calls about insulation grading than I would have. Again I'm not sure how you would handle this one since it is inherently somewhat subjective, but it may be worth a review."



#### **RESNET Standards Grade 1 Insulation Installation**

- Installed according to manufacturer's instructions
- Fills each cavity side-to-side and top-to-bottom
- No substantial gaps, voids, compressions, or obstructions
- Split or fitted tightly around wiring or obstructions in wall
- Occasional very small gaps are acceptable for "Grade I"
- Wall insulation shall be enclosed on all six sides
- Must be in substantial contact with the sheathing material.
- Inset stapling is neat (no buckling), and the batt is only compressed at the edges of each cavity, to the depth of the tab itself.

Compression or incomplete fill amounting to 2% or less, if the empty spaces are less than 30% of the intended fill thickness, are acceptable for "Grade I"





# **Duct leakage**



"Total duct leakage is still a challenge, depending on the market. Things are changing in practice for many and it's taking time for them to hit the target consistently."

#### Wake Up!!

- Building cavities as Ducts
- Sealing boots to sub-surfaces / drywall
- The target is achievable with a little practice and guidance

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# Total Duct Leakage ... Why?

- Not an indication of systems performance - gives us an indication of holes and hole size
- Does not replicate leakage under normal operation
- System performance (how well it delivers air) is being verified in other ways
  - Flow testing and pressure balance testing
- Ensures comfort, building durability, safety and efficiency





"Rough or Final ..... that is the question?"

# Rough



#### **Final**



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"If we want tight ducts . ... When should they be tested?"

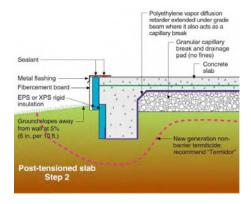
- Rough
  - Why doesn't testing at a rough stage meet the intent and rational for the program
  - Why can't it be left up to the Rater when testing should occur?
- Rough
  - Consistency of how ducts can be sealed
  - How do you fix a problem at a final stage
  - Ability to fog the system for contactor education

When should it be tested rough or final - ROUGH!



# Slab Edge Insulation

"I have to do what ... R- what ... From where to where ... It is never going to last through the construction cycle."



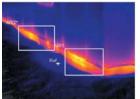
- Above grade details
- Post tension slabs
- Entry's and Garage connections
- Walkout basements
- Structural subfloors



#### Thermal Enclosure Checklist Footnote 4&5

- 4. Slab edge insulation is only required for slab-ongrade 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
- 5. 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 qualification.





www.energystar.gov/slabedge



#### Fan flows and ventilation flows

"Need to catch this at rough. If you see a builder grade 50 CFM fan housing with a 3" duct, tell the Super you doubt the fan will meet 50 CFM."

- Upsize fan to 70 CFM
- Upsize duct to 4 or 5"
- Minimize elbows
- Look at terminations
- Communication
  - Flow Box
  - · This is how you test
  - Etc.



#### Ventilation

"HVAC contractors don't want raters poking holes in flex ducts to measure Air Cycler (supply ventilation) flow. The contractor just assumes it meets ASHRAE 62.2 and cries foul when I call it out"

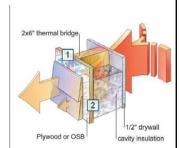
- Measurement issues
  - Flow box Exhaust ventilation
  - Pitot tub fpm, duct size, conversion to CFM
  - Flow hoods
  - Pressure taps on some HRVs and ERVs



# Thermal Bridging

"If no continuous insulation is used, discretion is required. If headers are insulated and there is a noticeable attempt to eliminate extra framing...3 stud corners, ladder blocking, possibly 24" OC, I believe the builder is making the right progression"

- Remember there is the ability to mix and match
- Intent vs. progress vs. 100% compliance
- New clarification:
  - 2x6 framing with stud spacing of 16 in. o.c. in Climate Zones 5 - 8 shall have ≥ R-20.0 wall cavity insulation installed regardless of any framing plan or alternative equivalent total UA calculation



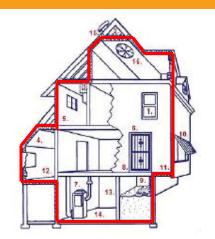


### The Envelope & the HVAC Contractor

"If the process goes as intended I trust that my design will work... its when something is missed that I worry."

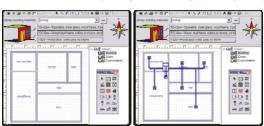
#### Faith or reality?

- House is a system ...... Right!
- The Thermal Enclosure Checklist is directly connected with the HVAC checklists
  - Synergy
- Investments in the thermal envelope
  - saves costs on the HVAC system
  - lower capacity equipment
  - Improves comfort and efficiency
- The Thermal Envelope is the foundation of designing and installing a complete HVAC system.



# Site Specific Design

- "There is a disconnect between what the Rater checklist and the Constrictor checklist are after. The Rater is reviewing the Contractor checklist based off of the Rated Home specification. Contractor is doing there work off plans not the Rated home."
- Does the program explicitly say site specific Design?



Yes / But



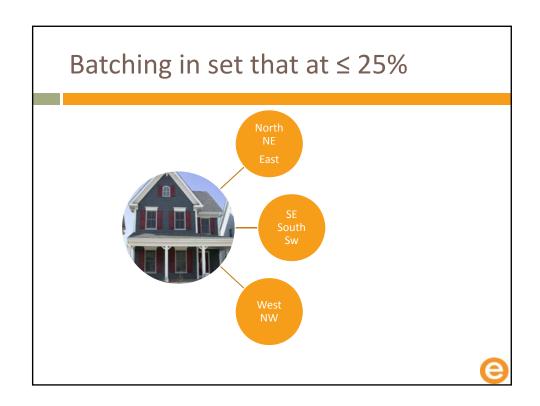
### For Home that Final in 2013

#### LOADS:

- For each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options), the loads shall be calculated for each potential configuration
- If the loads across all configurations vary by ≤ 25%, then the largest load shall be permitted to be used for equipment selection for all configurations, subject to the over-sizing limits of ACCA Manual S
- Otherwise, the contractor shall group the load for each configuration into a set with ≤ 25% variation and equipment selection shall be completed for each set of loads



What does this mean?								
Foundation Types	Slab on Grade	Full Basement	Base / Crawl	Walkout	Crawl / Walkout	Full Crawl		Elevations that change SQ or volume
Orientations	How many potential						Options	
North		configurations are there?					3 bedroom	Elev. A
NE							4 Bedroom	Elev. B
East							Office/ bedroom	Elev. C
SE								Elev. D
South								
SW								
West								
NW								



Start with Template
Move to Sit Specific ......



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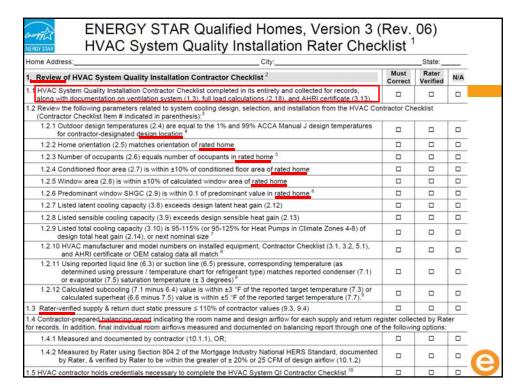
# Site Specific Design

- Rater Checklist
- For homes with a date of final inspection on or after 01/01/2013:
- For each house plan with multiple configurations (e.g., orientations, elevations, options)
- The Rater shall confirm that the parameters listed in Items 1.2.2 to 1.2.6 are aligned with the rated home



### Matches Rated Home: i.e. site specific

- 1.2.2 Home orientation (2.5) matches orientation of rated home
- 1.2.3 Number of occupants (2.6) equals number of occupants in rated home (number of bedrooms + one)
- 1.2.4 Conditioned floor area (2.7) is within ±10% of conditioned floor area of rated home
- 1.2.5 Window area (2.8) is within ±10% of calculated window area of rated home
- 1.2.6 Predominant window SHGC (2.9) is within 0.1 of predominant value in rated home



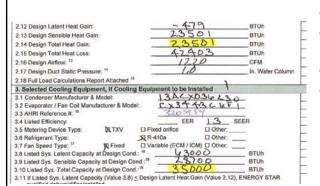
### **Two Options**

- Better coordination between Builder and HVAC contractor
  - · Plans don't match what is being built
    - Window Sqft ...... other option
- Site visit at the time the tin is dropped
  - · Confirm framing and duct layout
  - Confirm envelope specs
  - Confirm windows, bedroom, Sqft, SHGC



#### Rater HVAC Checklist

 Listed total cooling capacity (3.10 on HVAC Contractors Checklist Rev6) is 95-115% (or 95-125% for Heat Pumps in Climate Zones 4-8) of design total heat gain (2.14 on HVAC Contractors Checklist Rev6), or next nominal size. Check PASS if next nominal size.



- 23501 x 1.15 = 27026
- Next nominal Size is 30,000 or 2.5 Ton
- 36,000 3 Ton installed
- We learned that the manufacture data what wrong
  - Altitude
  - Transposed columns



### ESv3 HVAC Checklist review

- 2 system houses
  - Software analysis
  - Window break down on:
    - Manual J
    - Checklist
    - REM
  - SQFT break down on:
    - Manual J
    - Checklist
    - REM







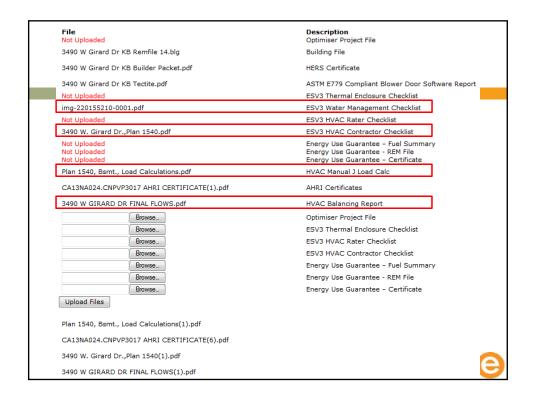
# Managing Checklist Documentation

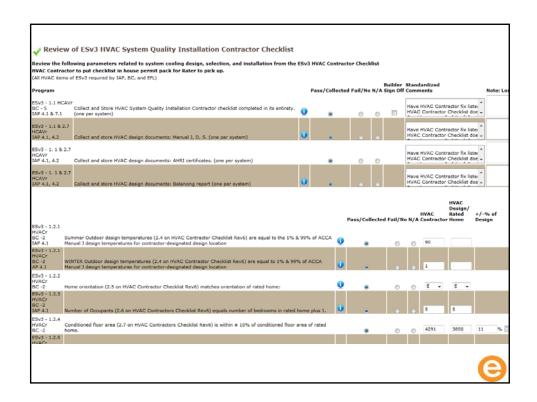
"Probably the single biggest thing I've heard from Raters is how hard it is to get the HVAC Contractor checklist. Several rating companies, large and small, have told me they are going to stop offering EnergyStar ratings as a service just for that reason."

- Importance of Communication
  - "Prior to ESv3, I don't think that most HVAC contractors even knew they were working on an ES homes because they were so detached from the process."
  - Tips
    - Engage the contractors
    - Business model
    - o Do not report until documentation has been obtained
    - Software/web data management









# **HVAC Commissioning**

"Many partners are still unfamiliar with commissioning tests and are intimidated as a result."

- Energy Star videos
   http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs\_le
   nders\_raters.nh\_videos
  - Static pressure
  - Air volume at the evaporator
  - Electrical measurements
  - Assessing Refrigerant charge



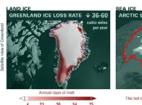
# Right sizing the HVAC System

- " No way will that size equipment meet the load of this house ... Do you want to take the call form the Builder?"
- Some partners don't believe that using Manual J, D, and S will result in a comfortable home
- It is like the Climate change debate
- "I didn't believe it but it works ... But ... It reduced equipment capacity and cost, it improve comfort and efficiency, and it lessoned our warranty."

#### Tips for the none believer:

- Can't participate in ESv3
- Incremental approach
- Try down-sizing by just a half ton
- Then try another half ton reduction
- Reach the right-sized capacity
- While doing this get your design as close as possible to the specification of the actual house







### **CREDENTIALING**

"The cost of getting credentialed is a big hurdle as I see little value from what ACCA is offering me."

- Market issues:
  - · Some have very little competition
  - · Little market demand but still a requirment
- Is this enough:
  - Regardless this is required ...
  - The credential provides market differentiation ...



# ESv3 From a Raters Perspective

# Thank you!

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