



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

Amendment Chapter: Chapter Two: RESNET NATIONAL STANDRD FOR INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Proponent:

RESNET Staff

Applies to:

Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating System Standards (2013) Addendum Chapter Two

Justification:

Across the nation the RESNET HERS Index Score is fast becoming a mainstream in the housing market. Homebuilders are having their homes energy rated and are marketing the HERS Index Score of their homes. Multiple Listing Services (MLS) are incorporating the HERS Index Scores in their listings and code jurisdictions are recognizing a HERS Index Score as a building energy code compliance option. With the increased visibility of the HERS Index Score, RESNET is obligated to ensure that HERS Index Scores are as consistent as possible.

This need has been made more important with the International Code Council adopting an Energy Rating Index option to the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code.

RESNET has embarked on a comprehensive effort to enhance the consistency of HERS Index Scores nationally. This includes the upgrading of its quality assurance standards and procedures.

A key component for ensuring the consistency of the HERS Index is a robust process for the instruction, assessment and certification of HERS Rater and Rating Field Inspector candidates.

RESNET is proposing a set of amendments to its candidate certification process. Major elements of the proposed changes are:

- Redefined and made rational the instruction, assessment, certification and re-certification of Rating Field Inspector (RFI) and HERS Rater candidates.
- Clarified the relationship between instruction and certification of RFI and HERS Rater candidates. This is intended to bridge the current gap in the responsibilities between Rater Training Providers and HERS Quality Assurance Providers on the assessment of HERS Rater candidates.
- Redefined the role of a Rater Trainer to be a Rater Instructor and created a Rater Candidate Field Assessor responsible for oversight of candidate probationary ratings.
- Changed HERS Rater recertification requirements by removing Professional Development and replacing with field testing.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter Two RESNET Standards

RESNET Standards

National Standard for Instruction, Assessment ~~Training~~ and Certification

200 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These standards define the requirements of Accredited Training Providers, Certified Rater ~~Trainers~~ Instructors, and Certification Candidates. RESNET shall confirm that the requirements defined in this standard have been met when accrediting Ttraining Pproviders and certifying ~~R~~rater ~~trainers~~ Instructors. Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Providers ...

GENERAL PROVISIONS

~~201.2 Training and Education Committee~~

~~201.1.1 Committee Responsibilities~~

~~The Training and Education Committee considers, reviews, and approves the following items:~~

~~201.1.1.1 Core competency examination questions, categories, time limits, and passing scores;~~

~~201.1.1.2 Subject categories that may be approved for Professional Development (PD) requirements for RESNET certified individuals.~~

~~201.2.2 Committee Chair~~

~~A member of the Board of Directors chairs the Training and Education Committee. RESNET Staff and the Board Chairperson nominate individuals to be the committee chair. Appointment of the committee chair requires majority approval of the Board.~~

~~201.2.3 Committee Members~~

~~The Committee Chair appoints individuals for committee membership. The RESNET Board of Directors retains the right to revoke individual committee membership.~~

~~201.2.4 Sub-Committees~~

~~Sub-committees may be formed to complete specific tasks. The chair of the Training and Education Committee appoints the sub-committee chairs. Sub-committee chairs and members need not be members of the Committee.~~

ACCREDITED TRAINING PROVIDERS

Achieving Accreditation

... Training Providers shall ~~demonstrate through completion of~~ complete the RESNET Rater Training Provider Accreditation Application... ~~shall demonstrate what? the following documentation that their training meets the criteria established through this Standard.~~

~~Training curriculum, materials, and manuals:~~

- ~~- **202.1.1** Examination materials.~~
- ~~- **202.1.2** Facilities description.~~
- ~~- **202.1.3** Organization description.~~

- ~~202.1.4 Principals and staff qualifications (detailed resumes).~~
- ~~202.1.5 The names of certified Rater Trainers it intends to teach classes.~~

Maintaining Accreditation

... Failure to properly discharge any of these duties and responsibilities constitutes grounds for disciplinary action in accordance with *Section 912.1- Probation, Suspension, and Revocation of Accreditation.*

~~202.2.1~~ Renew their accreditation in accordance with the renewal process found in Section 911.0.3 - Accreditation Renewal Process.

~~202.2.2~~ Maintain certified Rater Instructors ~~rater trainers~~. Only RESNET certified Rater Instructors ~~Trainers~~ can offer rater training through a RESNET accredited Rater Training Provider.

~~202.2.4~~ This information shall be made available to RESNET upon request by RESNET.

~~202.2.8~~ Only RESNET accredited Training Providers can offer Rater Training using certified RESNET certified Rater Instructors ~~Trainers~~.

~~203~~ CERTIFIED TRAINERS - CERTIFICATION OF RATER INSTRUCTORS

Achieving Certification

Individuals shall meet the following requirements to be certified as RESNET Rater Instructor ~~trainer~~. Only RESNET certified Rater Instructors ~~trainers~~ can conduct rater instruction ~~training~~ under the auspices of a RESNET accredited Training Provider.

~~203.1.2~~ ... Mastery is demonstrated by passing the following RESNET Tests:

~~203.1.2.1~~ National Rater ~~-Instructor~~ Competency Test with a minimum score ~~of 90%~~ determined by RESNET.

~~203.1.2.2~~ RESNET Combustion Appliance Test with a minimum score determined by RESNET

~~203.1.2.3~~ RESNET Rater Simulation Practical Test with a minimum score determined by RESNET

~~203.1.3~~ ~~Have an understanding of the purposes and benefits of home energy surveys, home energy ratings, and the ability to communicate these benefits to students.~~

~~203.1.4~~ ~~Have a basic understanding of energy efficient mortgages, energy improvement mortgages and related products, and the ability to communicate these to students.~~

~~203.1.5~~ ~~Beginning on January 1, 2015, as a certified Home Energy Rater, complete a minimum of twenty five (25) Home Energy Ratings. These 25 Ratings shall have met the minimum quality assurance processes defined in Section 904.4. Trainers who were certified prior to the adoption of~~

~~this amendment will have until January 1, 2017 to complete the required number of certified ratings.~~

203.2 Professional Development (PD)

~~Annually RESNET Certified Instructors Trainers shall complete a two-hour annual RESNET roundtable on current information and also attend a RESNET conference once every two years. complete at least one of the following items:~~

~~Document twelve (12) hours per year of attendance at RESNET conferences, or RESNET approved Professional Development courses delivered by accredited RESNET Training Providers, or RESNET sessions at Affordable Comfort Institute conferences, EEBA conferences, or other events and venues as approved by RESNET.~~

~~Instruct a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of RESNET Certification or Professional Development per year, documented by an Accredited Training Provider in accordance with section 202.2—Maintaining Accreditation.~~

An individual that is both a Certified ~~Rater Instructor Trainer~~ and Quality Assurance Designee shall complete both the two-hour RESNET roundtable for Rater ~~Instructors Trainers~~ and the two-hour roundtable for Quality Assurance Designees. ~~Individuals selecting the additional PD option need only comply with the requirement one time. i.e. 24 hours is not required.~~

203.2.1 Revocation

The following items are grounds for revocation of certified ~~Rater Instructor Trainer~~ designation.

203.2.2 Compromising the security or integrity of any RESNET certification ~~test exam~~.

203.2.3 Intentionally misrepresenting their ~~training Training Providership provider~~ by training to curricula that differ from that submitted on the ~~Provider's provider's Training training Provider provider~~ application.

204. CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE FIELD ASSESSORS

- **204.1 Achieving Certification**
Individuals shall meet the following requirements to be certified as a RESNET Candidate Field Assessor.
- **204.1.1 Certified HERS Rater in good standing, and**
203.1.2 As a certified Home Energy Rater, complete confirmed ratings on a minimum of twenty-five (25) homes. These 25 Ratings shall have met the minimum quality assurance processes defined in Section 904.4.

205 CERTIFICATION CANDIDATES

204.5.1 General Provisions

2045.1 Training Rater Instruction

~~All Rater Candidates are required to complete Rater instruction delivered by a RESNET Accredited Rater Training Provider. is not required. Rater candidates who did not attend HERS rater training shall pass all required exams and complete probationary ratings.~~

204 5.1.1 Examinations

~~... Rater Written examinations are administered by RESNET, and set up overseen by a RESNET accredited Rater Training Provider, certified trainer and overseen by a RESNET approved or their designated proctor.~~

205.2 Certification

~~Prior to issuing a candidate's certification, a RESNET Accredited Rating Quality Assurance ... Only RESNET Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Providers may certify candidates for the certifications. Rating Providers may require additional training instruction beyond these requirements ...~~

205.2.1 Home Energy Survey Professional (HESP)

~~205.2.1.1 Pass the national HESP Exam with a minimum score as determined by RESNET of at least 75%.~~

205.2.2 Rating Field Inspector (RFI)

~~205.2.2.1 Pass the RESNET graded field evaluation using the following RESNET Tests:~~

~~The RESNET Combustion Appliance Simulation exam.~~

~~204.2.2.2 At least three mentored rating field inspections observed by a certified HERS Rater or a RESNET Candidate Field Assessor using the RESNET JobWerks RFI Mentoring Tool to document results.~~

~~204.2.2.3.1 The RESNET JobWerks RFI Assessment graded field evaluation shall be performed under the observation of a certified trainer, Quality Assurance Designee Candidate Field Assessor, or QAD Delegate.~~

~~204.2.2.3.1 Complete at least five probationary Rating Field Inspections observed by a certified HERS rater or a quality assurance designee. The certified HERS Rater or QAD shall use the RESNET JobWerks RFI Tool to document the results of probationary inspections. The mentored and assessed probationary Rating Field Inspections shall comprise at a minimum the following tasks.~~

~~204.2.2.2.9 The effective date for item 204.2.2.2.8 is Jan 1, 2014. Rating Field Inspectors who were certified prior to Jan 1, 2014 shall pass the RESNET Combustion Appliance Test, and The Work Scope Development Tests before January 1, 2015.~~

204.2.2.3 RFI's shall not complete independent field testing and inspections until they have satisfactorily completed the requisite ~~three~~ five mentored probationary R rating ~~F~~field Inspections per 204.2.2.2 ~~204.1.5.2~~ and pass the RESNET JobWerks RFI Assessment graded field evaluation.

204.2.2.4 After successfully completing the ~~probationary-mentored~~ Rating Field Inspections and passing the RESNET ~~JobWerks RFI Assessment~~ Graded Field Evaluation,

204.3 Home Energy Rater (HERS Rater)

~~204.3.1~~ Pass the national RESNET HERS Rater tests: ~~Pass the national HERS Rater test 80%, the RESNET Combustion Appliance Simulation Test with a score of at least 85%, the Work Scope Development Test with a score of at least 80% and the RESNET Rater Simulation Practical Test with a score of at least 80% on each exam.~~

~~204.2.3.1.1~~ National HERS Rater Test with a minimum score as determined by RESNET.

~~204.2.3.1.2~~ RESNET Rater Simulation Practical Test with a minimum score determined by RESNET

~~204.2.3.1.3~~ the RESNET Combustion Appliance Simulation Test with a ~~score of at least 85~~ with a minimum score as determined by RESNET, ~~the Work Scope Development Test with a score of at least 80~~ and the RESNET Rater Simulation Practical Test with a score of ~~at least 80% on each exam~~ with a minimum score as determined by RESNET

~~204.2.3.2~~ Demonstrate competency at certain tasks mentored by a Certified Trainer by completing two training ratings. These ratings shall not contain any errors identified by RESNET-approved rating software. Both ratings shall have a reasonably acceptable level of accuracy when compared to the trainer's independent ratings of the same houses or building plans. The Trainer may choose these tasks to be performed in a hands-on environment, from house plans, or through RESNET-approved computer simulations. However at least one of the two training ratings shall be a confirmed rating conducted in-person with a certified trainer on a real house. The candidate shall perform the following procedures during the confirmed training rating.

~~204.2.3.2.1~~ Use pressure differential diagnostics to identify intermediate buffer zones including (but not limited to) attics, garages, or crawlspaces.

~~204.2.3.2.2~~ Identify insulation defects and account for them in energy analysis tool inputs.

~~204.2.3.2.3~~ Identify insulation types, thickness, and alignment with air barriers.

~~204.2.3.2.4~~ Measure pressure differences across the building envelope imposed by the operation of the home's equipment.

~~204.2.3.2.5~~ Perform building envelope leakage testing in accordance with the airtightness testing protocols contained in Chapter 8—Performance Testing and Work Scope.

~~204.2.3.2.6~~ Perform duct leakage testing in accordance with the duct testing protocols contained in Chapter 8—Performance Testing and Work Scope and interpret results.

~~204.2.3.2.7~~ Identify room and zone pressure imbalances caused by lack of ducted return air or pressure relief mechanisms such as transfer grilles or jumper ducts.

~~204.2.3.2.8~~ Identify gas leaks using combustible gas sensing equipment. If a leak is found, recommend that a certified technician repair the leak.

~~204.2.3.2.9~~ Perform CAZ, spillage, and CO testing in accordance with Carbon Monoxide (CO) Test and Depressurization Test for the Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) protocols contained in ANSI/ACCA 12 QH, Appendix A, Sections A4 and A5.

~~204.2.3.2.3~~ After passing the all of the RESNET tests ~~exam and completing the two training ratings~~, but prior to being certified, the candidate shall complete five three ~~five three~~ probationary ratings with a Rating Quality Assurance Provider overseen by a RESNET certified Candidate Field Assessor. At least three ~~three~~ of the five three ~~five three~~ probationary ratings shall be confirmed ratings.

RECERTIFICATION

~~205.1~~ RESNET ~~To renew certification~~ Home Energy Survey Professionals, Rating Field Inspectors, and HERS Raters, shall renew their certification every three years. Renewal requires the following: at least one of the following requirements every three years:

~~205.1.1~~ Home Energy Survey Professionals.
Pass the national RESNET Home Energy Survey Test ~~test appropriate to their certification~~ once in a three year period.

~~205.1.2~~ Rating Field Inspectors. ~~Document 18 hours of attendance at RESNET conferences, or RESNET approved Professional Development courses delivered by accredited RESNET Training Providers, or RESNET sessions at Affordable Comfort Institute conferences, EEBA conferences, or other events and venues as approved by RESNET. PD completed by RESNET certified individuals prior to achieving a higher certification will be applied toward the PD requirements of their new certification.~~ Pass the RESNET JobWerks RFI Assessment overseen by a RESNET certified Candidate Field Assessor once in a three year period.

~~205.1.2.1~~ Certified Home Energy Raters

~~205.1.2.2~~ Pass the RESNET JobWerks HERS Rater Assessment overseen by a RESNET certified Candidate Field Assessor once in a three year period

~~206.2.15.1~~ CAZ Testing

~~206.2.15.2~~ Perform CAZ, spillage, and CO testing in accordance with Carbon Monoxide (CO) Test and Depressurization Test for the Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) protocols contained in ANSI/ACCA 12 QH, Appendix A, Sections A4 and A5. Perform CAZ-depressurization, spillage, and CO testing.

~~206.2.15.3~~ Identify room and zone pressure imbalances caused by lack of ducted return air or pressure relief mechanisms such as transfer grilles or jumper ducts. Identify CAZ-depressurization issues caused by duct return leaks in the CAZ zone, supply leaks outside the house pressure boundary, zonal pressure imbalances, and/or exhaust appliances including other-combustion equipment.

~~206.2.15.4~~ Identify gas leaks using combustible gas sensing equipment. If a leak is found, recommend that a certified technician repair the leak.

Appendix B GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accredited Rater Training Provider or Training Provider - A Rater Training Provider accredited by RESNET in accordance with Chapters 2 and 9 of RESNET Standards to ~~train~~ instruct individuals to become Raters certified by Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Providers. Only RESNET Accredited Rater Training Providers can offer rater training-instruction and set up the national rater tests.

Approved Rating Quality Assurance Provider – Shall mean a RESNET-accredited RESNET Quality Assurance Provider who is listed in good standing in the National RESNET Registry.

~~**Comprehensive Home Energy Audit**—A level of the RESNET Home Energy Audit process defined by this standard to include the evaluation, diagnosis and proposed treatment of an existing home. The Comprehensive Home Energy Audit may be based on a Home Performance Assessment (“Comprehensive Home Performance Energy Audit”) or Home Energy Rating (“Comprehensive HERS Audit”), in accordance with the criteria established by this Standard. A homeowner may elect to go through this process with or without a prior Home Energy Survey or Diagnostic Home Energy Survey.~~

Examination - Test developed by RESNET and administered by an accredited Rater Training Provider ~~from questions developed by Training and Education Committee.~~

Home Energy Rater, or HERS Rater or Rater – ... (see also Rating Field Inspector ~~and Senior-Certified Rater~~).

Home Energy Rater Candidate, or Rater Candidate – An individual who has received instruction from a RESNET Accredited Rater Training Provider and has passed the required RESNET tests. ~~completed two (2) supervised ratings with a RESNET Accredited Training Provider, passed the National Core Rater Test and is in the process of completing three (3) additional probationary ratings necessary for certification by an Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Provider as a Home Energy Rater.~~

Home Energy Rating Quality Assurance Provider, or HERS QA Provider, or Rating Provider- See Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Provider.

Home Energy Rating Quality Assurance Provider, or HERS QA Provider, or Rating Provider- See Accredited Rating Quality Assurance Provider.

~~**Home Energy Survey, Diagnostic**—A level of the RESNET Home Energy Survey in accordance with this standard, consisting of an In-Home Home Energy Survey and additional diagnostic testing.~~

National Core-HERS Rater Test - Computer-based examination developed ~~by the Residential Energy Services Network’s (RESNET) Training and Education Committee~~ and administered by RESNET.

~~**Quality Assurance Committee (QA Committee)**—A Standing Committee of the RESNET—organization that is responsible for the oversight of RESNET’s rating quality assurance program;~~

~~review and ruling on the merits of formal Ethics and Consumer Complaints received by RESNET, and review and rule on the merits of all appeals of non-approval or renewal of an application, probation, suspension, or revocation.~~

~~**Rater Instructor Trainer, Certified** - An individual certified by RESNET and designated by an Accredited Rater Training Provider to provide instruction and assistance to candidate trainees. ~~A class instructor who has demonstrated, by means of passing the RESNET National Rater Trainer Competency Test, mastery of the building science and rating system and competency necessary to effectively teach Rater training courses.~~ Only RESNET certified Rater Instructors Trainers can provide rater ~~training~~ instruction under the auspices of a RESNET accredited Rater Training Provider.~~

~~**RESNET Candidate Field Assessor** – An individual certified by RESNET and designated by an accredited RESNET Rating Quality Assurance Provider to conduct probationary and field assessments for candidates.~~

~~**RESNET Combustion Appliance Simulation Test or Combustion Appliance Test** – Simulation based practical test adopted by RESNET used for the assessment of RFI and HERS Rater candidates~~

~~**RESNET Rater Simulation Practical Test** – Simulation based practical test adopted by RESNET used for the assessment of HERS Rater candidates.~~

~~**RESNET JobWerks RFI Assessment** - Tablet-based software adopted by RESNET, residing in the cloud, used for assessment of RESNET RFI candidates.~~

~~**RESNET JobWerks RFI Mentoring Tool**~~ - Tablet-based software adopted by RESNET, residing in the cloud, used for ~~coaching, tracking and assessment~~ mentoring of RESNET RFI ~~e~~ Candidates.

~~**RESNET JobWerks HERS Rater Assessment** – Tablet-based software adopted by RESNET, residing in the cloud, used for assessment of RESNET HERS Raters.~~

~~**RESNET National Rater Trainer Competency Test** – Certification test developed and administered by RESNET to ensure that accredited Rater Training Providers' trainers have the requisite knowledge and competence to serve as trainers for prospective certified Raters. The test is based on the national core competency exam developed and maintained by RESNET.~~

~~**Technical Committee** – A Standing Committee of the RESNET organization that is responsible for review and oversight of the RESNET Technical Standards (Chapter 3).~~

~~**Training and Education Committee** – A Standing Committee of the RESNET organization that is responsible for overseeing RESNET training, RESNET tests, and education and professional development for RESNET Providers and Raters.~~

Effective Date: January 1, 2016