



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

Interpretation Request: Application of ANSI/RESNET 380

Designation: 380-16-02 Fire Sprinkler Head Configuration for Airtightness Testing

Approved: March 22, 2018 by SDC 300, Testing, Calculation and Labeling for Home Energy Ratings

Effective Date: April 22, 2018

Proponent: RESNET Staff

Applies to: ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380 2016, RESNET MINHERS Standards Appendix A

Issue:

Raters, Providers, and Program Administrators have inconsistent interpretations related to infiltration testing conditions for dwelling units that contain fire suppression (sprinkler) systems. The Proponent requests formal interpretation on whether sprinkler heads are allowed to be left in their as-is condition (which may include temporary construction covers).

Interpretation:

Infiltration testing for dwelling units that contain fire suppression systems shall be allowed to be performed *with temporary sprinkler head covers in place*.

Rationale:

MINHERS Appendix A, section A-9.1.1.1 and ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380, 2016 Section 3.2.11 both provide guidance on testing conditions for dampers, plumbing traps, crawlspace vents fireplace flues, and more. Similarly, the presence of temporary sprinkler head covers has potential to influence the infiltration test result. Raters need guidance on testing dwelling units that utilize these covers during construction to protect the sprinkler system from paint, dust, and other construction debris.

The presence of fire suppression systems creates more potential for infiltration due to more drywall penetrations. Temporary covers may still be present time of final testing and are permitted to remain in place during testing. While this does not represent normal operating conditions for the occupants and may misrepresent infiltration, there is no research at this time on which to estimate the amount of infiltration reduced by the presence of the temporary covers.