

From: Steve Baden [mailto:sbaden@resnet.us]

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Subject: HERS Industry - Communication from the RESNET Board of Directors on Insights on the Impacts of the ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301

As previously communicated, the RESNET Board of Directors has implemented a six month transition period for Raters to begin using HERS Rating software tools compliant with ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301-2014. As of July 1, 2016, HERS Raters can use the new versions of the software tools. However, HERS Raters must use the new versions of the software tools for all new projects beginning January 1, 2017.

To provide greater insight into the impacts of the ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301-2014, the RESNET Board of Directors adopted a new set of software tests. HERS Rating Software Providers have submitted their results of the new test suite to RESNET and a RESNET Board Analytics Task Group has completed its review of the test results. Following are the conclusions from this review:

1. The recent update of the HERS standard to ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301-2014 has produced many positive outcomes for the rating industry.
 - a. Increases consistency between the most commonly used HERS software packages;
 - b. Establishes a baseline consistent with a specific code reference (IECC 2006);
 - c. Includes modifications necessary for ratings to be used for code compliance under the IECC 2015 ERI path in addition to federal energy tax credits;
 - d. Enables a number of new energy efficiency measures to be recognized and savings captured, e.g. water efficiency measures.
2. Average changes in resulting HERS scores are consistent with expectations established when ANSI/RESNET/ICC Standard 301-2014 was originally developed and introduced.
 - a. Individual rating impacts can vary by climate zone, building size, configuration, and other factors;
 - b. Increases in HERS score may be mitigated by opportunities to capture additional savings in new projects;
 - b. Analytical work recently completed has provided additional insight into the relative impacts of specific measures
 - d. Reaching the ENERGY STAR HERS target for any given home will not get any more difficult as ENERGY STAR uses a “floating” reference home methodology.
3. This update represents another step in the evolution of the Home Energy Rating System.
 - a. Refinements such as this improve the reliability, accuracy and Consistency of the HERS Index for everyone;

- b. RESNET will continue to be open and responsive to new efficiency technologies, modeling methodologies, codes and standards, and industry best practices, based on the rigorous review protocols stipulated by the ANSI process.
- 4. The rater community is encouraged to embrace these changes when they occur.
 - a. Begin early to work with the new standard and software in order to assess impacts for clients;
 - b. Work with builders and other building industry professionals to design solutions that have a positive impact on HERS Scores.

To provide more details on the above and to answer questions from the HERS industry, RESNET will be hosting a webinar. The webinar will explain the new RESNET software tests, the results of the new software tests, the conclusions of the RESNET Board Analytics Task Group, and answer questions. The HERS Rating Software Providers will also participate in the webinar. Be on the watch for the announcement of the webinar.

RESNET Board of Directors