

# Leveraging Raters in Energy Code Development , Adoption, and Execution

**RESNET®** RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES NETWORK **2018 CONFERENCE** Orlando, FL - Feb 26 - 28



**Presented by Robby Schwarz**  
**energyLogic** Helping Colorado Builders Achieve Peak Performance

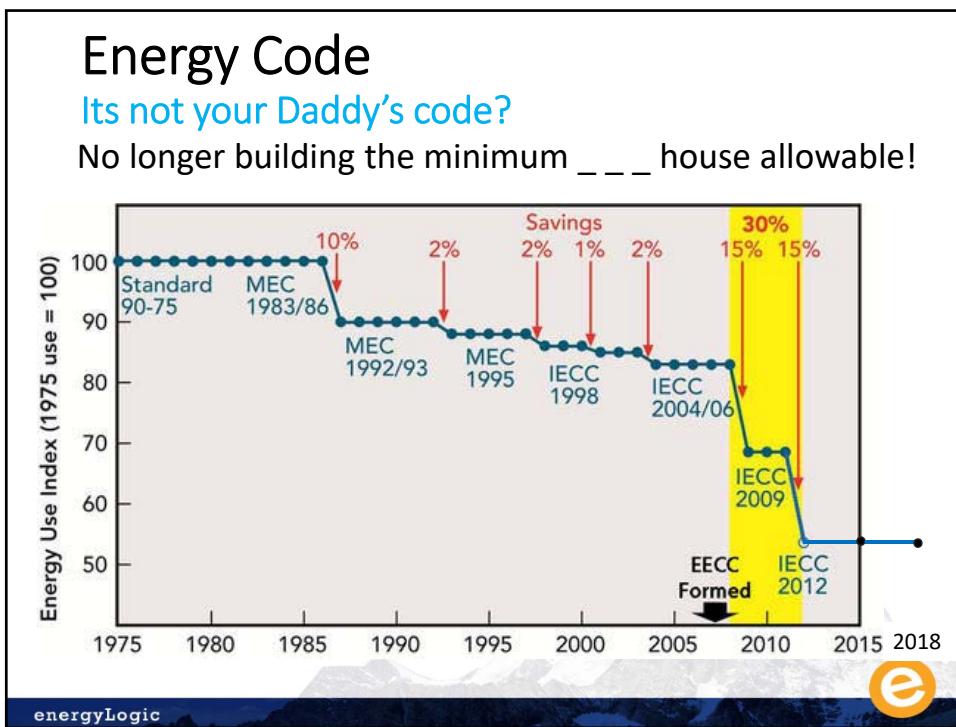
## Agenda

- IECC Code development overview
- Where can Raters get involved
- Chapter 1
  - Alternative materials
  - Construction documents and defining the thermal envelope
- What are Ratings and what are inspections
- Overview of SPP and ERI



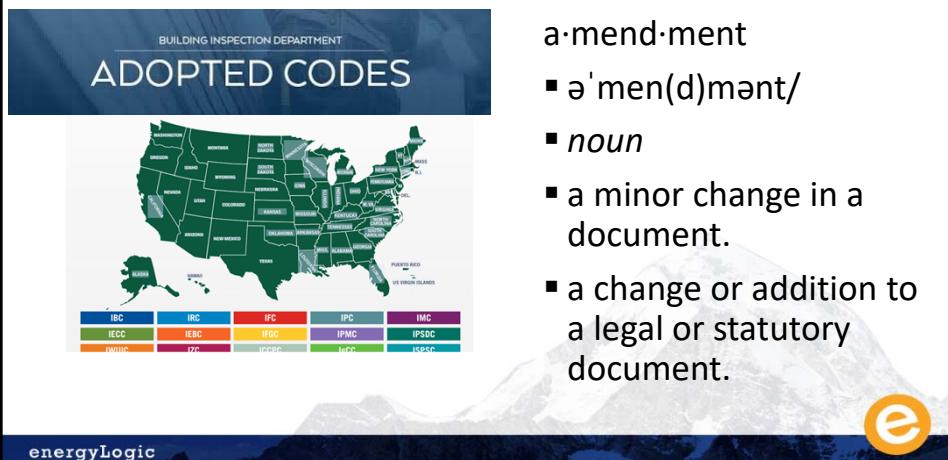
Change is Hard ... Change is Good... Change can be Made Easier  
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## The key factor of code development

### Adoption



### Amendment

a·mend·ment

- a'men(d)mənt/
- noun
- a minor change in a document.
- a change or addition to a legal or statutory document.

## 2015 IECC – Intent

- This code shall regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use and conservation of energy **over the useful life of each building**

- Durability



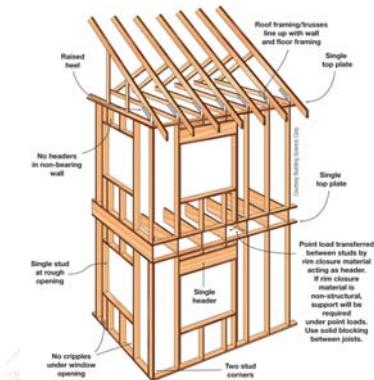
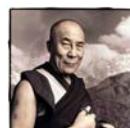
## 2015 IECC – Intent

- This code is intended to **provide flexibility** to permit innovative approaches and techniques to achieve this objective

**“Learn the rules  
so you know how  
to break them  
properly”**

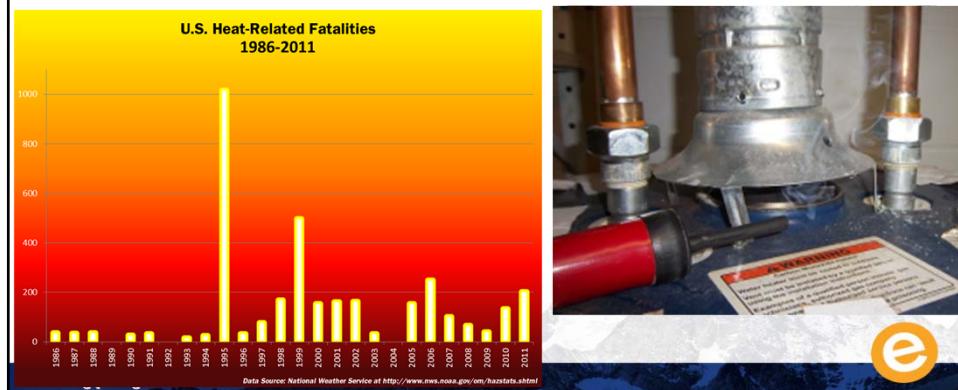
Author: Dalai Lama  
Date: Feb 25, 2008

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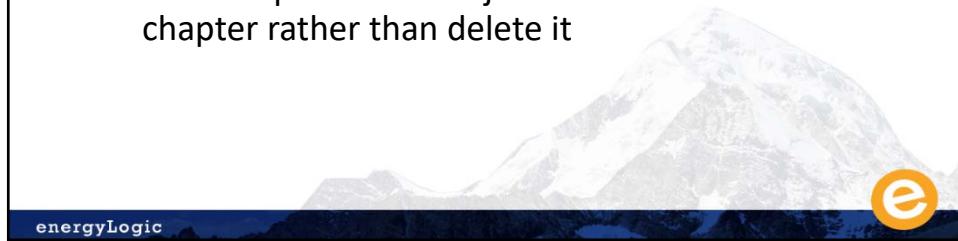
## 2012/2015 IECC – Intent

- The code is not intended to abridge safety, health or environmental requirements contained in other applicable codes or ordinances



## Chapter 1: Administration

- Often the Chief Building Official deletes Chapter 1 and inserts their own administrative provisions
- However the IECC has code requirements in Chapter 1 that are important for Raters
- Good to promote that jurisdictions amend this chapter rather than delete it



## R102.1

- **The Code official shall be permitted to approve an alternative material, design or method of construction where the code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provision of this code and that the material, method or work offered is for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code**



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## R103.1 General

- Construction documents, technical reports and other supporting data **shall be submitted** in one or more sets **with each application for a permit.**
- The construction documents and technical reports **shall be prepared by a registered design professional** where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed.

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## R103.2 Information on Construction documents



### Example Details

**Ductwork in floor over garage**

No minimum R-value requirement between duct and conditioned space.

Subfloor or wallboard encapsulate insulation.

CONDITIONED GARAGE

UNCONDITIONED GARAGE

NOTE: This approach is only approved if BLCPW insulation is used to compare to the code.

DUCT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE THERMAL ENVELOPE AND IS INSULATED FROM THE UNCONDITIONED GARAGE. SEPARATE DUCT INSULATION SHIMS ARE NOT REQUIRED.

DUCT IS COMPLETELY INSULATED WITH INSULATION R-18 INSULATION REQUIRED BEFORE DUCT.

Provide interior sheathing, exterior wall and ceiling prior to the code required insulation.

Continuous layer of exterior insulation.

Wood frame soffit assembly.

Provide interior sheathing, exterior wall and ceiling prior to the code required insulation.

Continuous layer of exterior insulation.

Interior drywall — gypsum board.

Continuous backboard

Felt surround

Felt unit

Insulated exterior wall

Soil sheathing

Layer of sealant

Expendable foam

Wood frame floor assembly

**Details shall include but are not limited to:**

- Insulation location and R-values
- Window U-value & SHGC
- Mechanical System design criteria
- Mechanical and water heater Type, size and efficiency
- Duct sealing, insulation and location
- **Air sealing details**

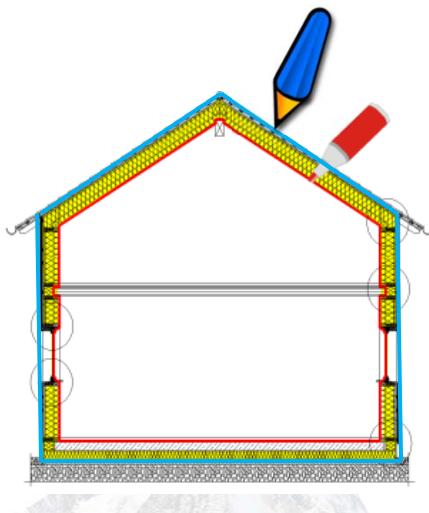
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### New in the 2015

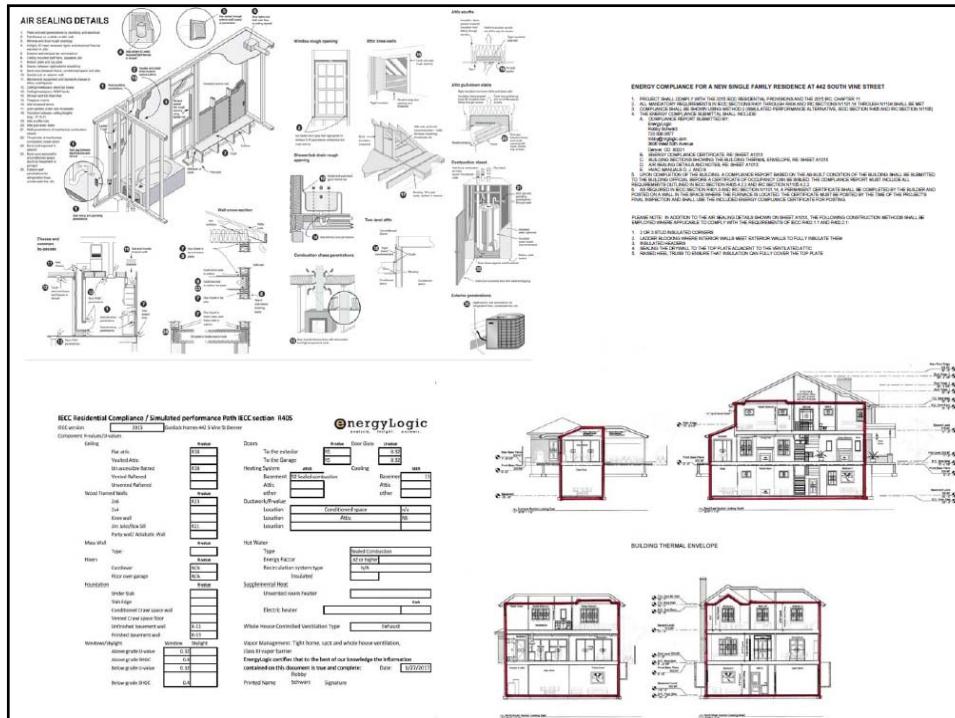
- **103.2.1 Building Thermal Envelope depiction:**
  - The buildings thermal envelope shall be represented on the construction documents

- Blue – Exterior air barrier
- Yellow Thermal Barrier
- Red Interior air barrier



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### ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR A NEW SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE AT 442 SOUTH VINE STREET

1. PROJECT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE 2015 IECC RESIDENTIAL PROVISIONS AND THE 2015 IRC, CHAPTER 11
  2. ALL MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS IN IECC SECTIONS R401 THROUGH R404 AND IRC SECTIONS N1101.14 THROUGH N1104 SHALL BE MET
  3. COMPLIANCE SHALL BE SHOWN USING METHOD 2 (SIMULATED PERFORMANCE ALTERNATIVE, IECC SECTION R405 AND IRC SECTION N1105)
  4. THE ENERGY COMPLIANCE SUBMITTAL SHALL INCLUDE:
    - A. COMPLIANCE REPORT SUBMITTED BY:  
EnergyLogic  
Robby Schwarz  
720 838 0677  
robby@englogic.com  
3606 West 50th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80221
    - B. ENERGY COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE, RE: SHEET A101X
    - C. BUILDING SECTIONS SHOWING THE BUILDING THERMAL ENVELOPE, RE: SHEET A101X
    - D. AIR SEALING DETAILS AND NOTES, RE: SHEET A101X
    - E. HVAC MANUALS D, J, AND S
5. UPON COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING, A COMPLIANCE REPORT BASED ON THE AS-BUILT CONDITION OF THE BUILDING SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUILDING OFFICIAL BEFORE A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY CAN BE ISSUED. THE COMPLIANCE REPORT MUST INCLUDE ALL REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED IN IECC SECTION R405.4.2 AND IRC SECTION N1105.4.2.
6. AS REQUIRED IN IECC SECTION R401.3 AND IRC SECTION N1101.14, A PERMANENT CERTIFICATE SHALL BE COMPLETED BY THE BUILDER AND POSTED ON A WALL IN THE SPACE WHERE THE FURNACE IS LOCATED. THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE POSTED BY THE TIME OF THE PROJECT'S FINAL INSPECTION AND SHALL USE THE INCLUDED ENERGY COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE FOR POSTING.

PLEASE NOTE: IN ADDITION TO THE AIR SEALING DETAILS SHOWN ON SHEET A101X, THE FOLLOWING CONSTRUCTION METHODS SHALL BE EMPLOYED WHERE APPLICABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF IECC R402.1.1 AND R402.2.1:

1. 2 OR 3 STUD INSULATED CORNERS
2. LADDER BLOCKING WHERE INTERIOR WALLS MEET EXTERIOR WALLS TO FULLY INSULATE THEM
3. INSULATED HEADERS
4. SEALING THE DRYWALL TO THE TOP PLATE ADJACENT TO THE VENTILATED ATTIC
5. RAISED HEEL TRUSS TO ENSURE THAT INSULATION CAN FULLY COVER THE TOP PLATE



## What is a Raters responsibilities?

- Different types of Ratings, different responsibilities
- HERS minimum rated features vs. Code mandatory
- HERS Index and HERC vs. ERI and ERI Report
- Testing for code vs. for a HERS Ratings
  - Blower door
  - Duct leakage



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## What is a Rating?

- Methodology for evaluating a house
  - Provides
    - Alignment
    - uniformity
    - Consistency
  - May
    - Assess performance
    - Demonstrate compliance
    - Offer certification
- Energy
- Code
- EnergyStar
- LEED
- Other Program
- Warranty
- Audit

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## Asset Rating

### RESNET HERS Rating

- Minimum rated features
- Not a Pass / Fail evaluation



Minimum rated features of a home include:

- Building envelope features
- Water heating
- Space heating and cooling systems
- Passive solar
- Solar domestic water heating
- Appliances
- One-site power production

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## RESNET Insulation Grading

Modeling guidance for derating the R-value of insulation

- When it is possible to inspect insulation as installed (i.e., new construction), inspectors shall rate the installation as "Grade I, II, or III" according to the following guidelines

- Grade 1



- Grade 2



- Grade 3



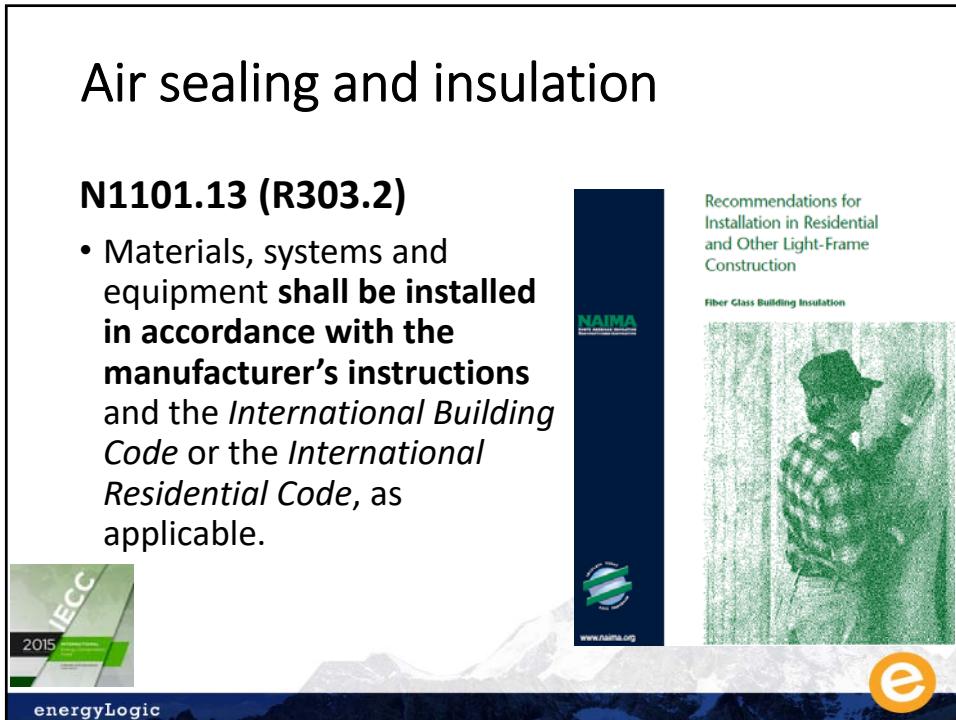
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## Air sealing and insulation

### N1101.13 (R303.2)

- Materials, systems and equipment shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the *International Building Code* or the *International Residential Code*, as applicable.



## Insulation Installation Instructions

**Insulation Institute**  
KNOWLEDGE. LEADERSHIP. CONFIDENCE.™

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I'm a Homeowner > Installation > Doing it Yourself > Walls and Knee Walls

### Instructions for Installing Wall and Knee Wall Insulation

This section provides info on "How to Install Insulation." It contains specific information on installation details for walls and knee walls that will assist with proper installation to meet RESNET Grade 1 criteria for fiber glass and mineral wool batt insulation. Includes information on special situations as wells tips for insulating near pipes, along rim or band joists and around doors and windows.



## RESNET Standards Grade 1 Insulation Installation

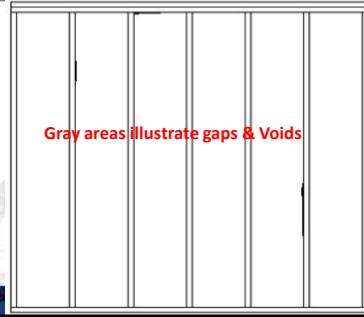
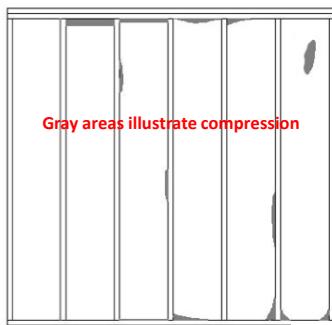
- Installed according to manufacturer's instructions
- Fills each cavity side-to-side and top-to-bottom
- No substantial gaps, voids, compressions, or obstructions
- Split or fitted tightly around wiring or obstructions in wall
- Occasional very small gaps are acceptable for "Grade I"
- Wall insulation 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".

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### RESNET Standards – Grade I Insulation



## Code Rating

- Compliance Rating
  - Minimum rated features
  - Pass / Fail evaluation



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### Mandatory Requirements

- Compliance modeling
  - UA Compliance
  - Cost Compliance
  - EIR Compliance
- Insulation installation
- Air Barriers
- Air leakage 3/5ACH
- Duct Leakage 4%
- High Efficacy Lighting



## Terminology

### ▪ Mandatory requirements

- Requirements that must be met by every building unless there is a specific exception in the code and regardless of the compliance path that is used

### ▪ Prescriptive requirements

- Requirements that must be met by every building unless an approved tradeoff is utilized or unless there is a specific exception in the code

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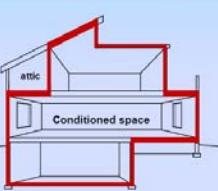


Items listed in this table are mandatory and sometimes not clear



**Definitions**

**Building Thermal Envelope:** The basement walls, exterior walls, floor, roof, and any other building element that enclose the conditioned space. This boundary also includes the boundary between conditioned space and any exempt or unconditioned space.



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AIR BARRIER AND INSULATION INSTALLATION		
COMPONENT	AIR BARRIER CRITERIA	INSULATION INSTALLATION CRITERIA
General requirements	A continuous air barrier shall be installed in the building envelope. The exterior thermal envelope contains a continuous air barrier.	Air-permeable insulation shall not be used as a sealing material.
Ceiling/soffit	The air barrier in any dropped ceiling soffit shall be sealed at the top plate and any gaps in the air barrier shall be sealed.	The insulation in any dropped ceiling soffit shall be insulated with the air barrier.
Walls	The junction of the foundation and sill plates shall be sealed. The junction of the top plate and the top of exterior walls shall be sealed. Knee walls shall be sealed.	Cavities within corners and headers of frame walls shall be sealed by completely filling the cavity with insulation having an R-value of R-3 per each minimum dimension of the cavity.
Windows, skylights and doors	The space between window door frames and framing and skylights and framing shall be sealed.	Insulation shall be installed in windows and doors.
Fan plenums	Fan plenums shall include the air barrier.	Fan plenums shall be insulated.
Floors (including above garage and unconditioned floors)	The air barrier shall be installed at any exposed edges of insulation.	Floor framing cavity insulation shall be insulated with mineral wool insulation with the underside of outdoor decking, or floor joists being cavity insulation. The insulation shall be continuous with the top side of sheathing, or continuous insulation shall be applied to the underside of joists and extends from the bottoms to the tops of all joists.
Crawl space walls	Exposed earth in unvented crawl spaces shall be covered with a Class I vapor retarder with overlying mineral wool insulation.	Where present instead of floor insulation, insulation shall be permanently attached to the crawlspace walls.
Shaft, penetrations	Flue shafts, utility penetrations, and fissile shafts opening to exterior or unconditioned space shall be sealed.	Batts in narrow cavities shall be cut to fit, or narrow cavities shall be filled by insulation that insulates directly to the available cavity space.
Narrow cavities		
Gauge separation	Air sealing shall be provided between the garage and conditioned space.	Air sealing shall be provided between the garage and conditioned space.
Recessed lighting	Excess light fixtures mounted in the building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the drywall.	Excess light fixtures installed in the building thermal envelope shall be air tight and IC rated.
Plumbing and wiring		Plumbing and wiring in exterior walls, or penetration that an insulation readily conforms to available space shall extend behind piping and wiring.
Showers/tubs on exterior wall	The air barrier, sealed at exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall separate them from the showers and tubs.	Exterior walls adjacent to showers and tubs shall be insulated.
Electrical/phone box on exterior walls	The air barrier shall be continuity behind electrical or communication boxes or air-sealed boxes shall be sealed.	
HVAC register boots	HVAC register boots that penetrate building thermal envelope shall be sealed to the surface or drywall.	
Concealed sprinklers	When required to be sealed, concealed fire sprinklers shall be sealed to the exterior wall or drywall by the manufacturer. Caulking or other adhesive shall not be used to seal concealed fire sprinkler cover plates and walls or ceilings.	

a. An additional inspection of the wall shall be conducted with the generation of R75-400.

## Program Rating

- Certification/Labeling Rating
  - Minimum rated features
  - Pass / Fail evaluation



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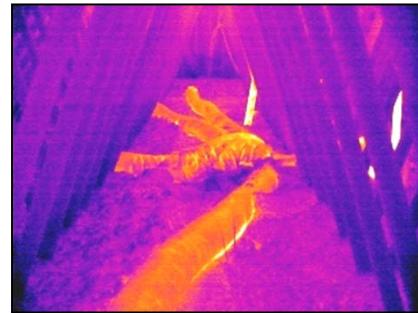
- EnergyStar v3
- HERS Index target
- Thermal enclosure checklist
- Rater HVAC checklist
- HVAC design report
- HVAC commissioning report
- Builder water management checklist
- Footnote requirements



### R403.3.3 Duct testing (Mandatory).

**Leakage testing required when any portion of ductwork is in unconditioned space**

- Attic
- Unconditioned crawl space
- Isolated mechanical room with natural draft appliance
- Floor over garage?
- Exterior wall?



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**EnergyStar requires duct testing regardless of the location of the duct**

Total Duct leakage



Duct Leakage to outside

Must be tested when using the performance path of code



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## Energy Code Inspection

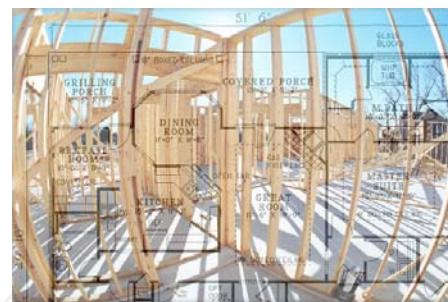


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## R104.4 Approved Inspection Agency

- The *code official* is authorized to accept reports of **third party inspection agencies** not affiliated with the *building* design or construction, provided such agencies are *approved* as to qualifications and reliability relevant to the building components and systems they are inspecting.
- Becomes important for the Simulated Performance and Energy Rating Index Path



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## Fundamental Questions

Is It There?



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Does It Work?



## Fundamental Questions

Is It There?



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Does It Work?



## R104.2 Required inspections.

- The **code official or his or her designated agent**, upon notification, shall make the inspections set forth in Sections R104.2.1 through R104.2.5.
  - Footing and Foundation
  - Framing and rough in
  - Plumbing and rough in
  - Mechanical rough in
  - Final Inspection



### R104.2.1 Footing and foundation inspection.

- Inspections associated with footings and foundations shall verify compliance with the code as to
  - **R-value**
  - Location
  - thickness
  - **Depth of burial and protection of insulation**



**.... as required by the code and approved plans and specifications.**

### R104.2.2 Framing and rough-in inspection.

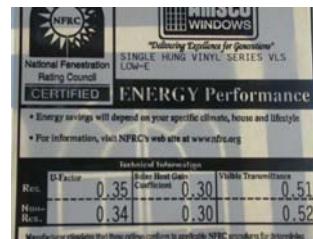
- Inspections at framing and rough-in shall be made before application of interior finish and **shall verify compliance** with the code as to types of insulation and **corresponding R-values** and **their correct location and proper installation**



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### R104.2.2 Framing and rough-in inspection.

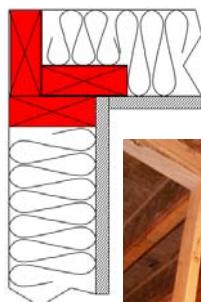
- Fenestration properties (*U*-factor and SHGC) and proper installation; and **air leakage controls** as required by the code and approved plans and specifications.



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## R104.2.2 Framing and rough-in inspection.

Mandatory requirements



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## R104.2.4 Mechanical rough-in inspection.

- Inspections at mechanical rough-in shall verify compliance as required by the code and *approved* plans and specifications as to ...
  - Installed HVAC equipment type and size
  - Required controls
  - System insulation and corresponding *R*-value
  - **System air leakage control**
  - Programmable thermostats
  - Dampers
  - **Whole-house ventilation**
  - And **minimum fan efficiency**



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## R104.2.5 Final inspection.

- The *building* shall have a final inspection and shall not be occupied until *approved*.
- The final inspection shall include verification of the installation of all required
  - *building* systems
    - Blower door test
  - equipment and controls
    - Ventilation
  - and their proper operation
  - and the required **number of high-efficacy** lamps and fixtures.



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## R104.6 Re-inspection and testing.

- Where any work or installation does not pass an initial test or inspection, the **necessary corrections shall be made** to achieve compliance with this code. **The work or installation shall then be resubmitted to the *code official* for inspection and testing.**



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## R401.3 Certificate (Mandatory)

- A permanent certificate **shall be completed and posted** on or in the electrical distribution panel by the builder or registered design professional
- The certificate shall list....
  - R-values of insulation
  - R-values of ducts outside conditioned spaces
  - Window U-value and SHGC
  - Results of duct system and building envelope air leakage testing
  - Types and efficiencies of heating, cooling and service water heating equipment.



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### IECC 2015 Label 8925 Place to live

#### Building Envelope Specs

Ceiling: R-38  
 Above Grade Walls: R-23  
 Foundation Walls: R-11  
 Exposed Floor: R-44  
 Slab: R-0  
 Infiltration: 3 ACH50  
 Duct Insulation: R-9.5  
 Duct Leakage: 0 CFM25

#### Window & Door Specs

Window: U = 0.340, SHGC = 0.280  
 Door: R-7

#### Mechanical Equipment Specs

Heating: Furnace • Natural Gas • 92.5 AFUE  
 Cooling: N/A  
 Hot Water: Water Heater • Natural Gas • 0.62  
 Energy Factor

#### Builder or Design Professional

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you!



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