

Green and Energy Star Certification Testing Options and Requirements

TEST / INDEX	DESCRIPTION	FGBC	NAHB	ENERGY STAR
HERS Index	The HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Index is the energy score for the home. A Home Energy Rater enters specifics from the house into software that calculates the initial HERS Index. A home built to code in our area would have a HERS Index of approximately 85. An Energy Star home is required to have a minimum index of 77. This score changes to a variable HERS Index based on individual home criteria for homes permitted on or after July 1st 2012. The lower the score the better.	Not required, however most projects find it difficult to achieve the minimum points required in the Energy category without it.	Not required but will provide the documentation needed for the Performance Path point number 701.1.1	Required
Ductwork Smoke Test	Performed at rough-in just after completion of duct installation. Installers need to be present. Boots are taped off and theater smoke is blown into the system revealing previously invisible leaks. The installers add additional mastic where needed.	Not required.	Not required but will contribute to point 701.4.2.1	Not required
Thermal Bypass Inspection	A review of the home's insulation looking for incorrectly installed, breached, or missing insulation. Unsealed penetrations or gaps are also indentified.	Not required	Not required but will contribute to points 701.4.3.1 - 701.4.3.4	Required
Duct Blaster Test	Performed at completion to measure duct leakage.	Required if home will be receiving a HERS score. High duct leakage lowers the HERS score. Requesting a smoke test at rough-in will allow the leaks to be repaired ensuring a good Duct Blaster Test score	Required if a HERS score is being used to document compliance with the 701.1.1 Performance Path. Will also contribute to point 701.4.2.1	Required. This is a pass fail test for Energy Star certification. If duct leakage is greater than 6 cfm to outdoors / 100 sq. ft., the home will not receive the Energy Star certification. Requesting a smoke test at rough-in will allow the leaks to be repaired ensuring a good Duct Blaster Test score.

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Blower Door Test	Performed at completion to measure tightness of entire building envelope.	Required if home will be receiving a HERS score	Required if a HERS score is being used to document compliance with the 701.1.1 Performance Path.	Required
HVAC & Ductwork Installation Inspection	Testing and inspections performed at rough in and final to confirm proper installation of the HVAC system.	Not required	Not required	Required
Water Management Inspection	Performed at rough-in and final by the builder and by the HERS rater for any items the builder requests he/she review.	Not required	Not required	Required
OR				OR
Indoor airPlus	This certification is offered as an alternative to the Water Management Inspection checklist. The builder and HERS rater are involved in verifying checklist items.			Required

