

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 100. An Energy Star home is required to have a minimum index of 85. 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 3.2.1.	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. Innovative points available for including this test.	Not required but will contribute to point 3.3.6.1	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 identified.	Not required	Not required but will contribute to point 3.3.6.1	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 3.2.1 Performance Path. Will also contribute to point 3.3.6.2	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.
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 3.2.1 Performance Path. Will also contribute to point 3.3.6.2	Required