

ENERGY STAR Changing for the Better

Qualifying manufactured homes for the ENERGY STAR label just got a lot easier!

Over the past few months, SBRA has been working with US EPA to streamline the ENERGY STAR program for Manufactured Homes. The result is a set of new, simplified requirements (click [here](#)) for electrically heated homes completed on or after March 16, 2018.

Highlights of the changes:

- **One climate region, one thermal requirement.** Instead of four climate regions and various packages, plants can now build homes using one set of specifications for the entire nation. With this alternative package for electrically heated homes, a **heat pump must be sold** with the home. There are two ways to comply:
 1. **Prescriptive:**
 - **R-33** Ceiling insulation
 - **R-11** Wall insulation
 - **R-22** Floor insulation
 - Window U-value ≤ 0.35 , SHGC ≤ 0.30(The R-values are the same as the Clayton Energy Smart package!)
 - or*
 2. **Performance:**
 - Single-section homes **Uo-value** ≤ 0.082 , Window SHGC ≤ 0.30
 - Multi-section homes **Uo-value** ≤ 0.076 , Window SHGC ≤ 0.30
- **A Site Installation Checklist is no longer required.**
- **2% field verification** by an ENERGY STAR Certifier is required ONLY for homes that have exterior crossover ducts (most multi-section homes).
- **Reporting homes in *Information Manager (IM)*.** IM is being updated to incorporate the new package and a new printing tool that makes it easier to print labels. The updated version of IM will be available in the weeks ahead.
- **Recording HVAC equipment data.** To complete the home record in **IM**, the home manufacturer must report the heat pump make and model number, information that may be available from either the retailer or HVAC contractor.
- **Electrically heated homes only.** Initially, the new requirements apply only to electrically heated homes. However, plants can continue to label electrically heated homes under the existing program. New requirements for gas-heated homes will be added within the next few months. In the interim, gas-heated homes must comply with the existing program requirements.

Reminder: The **\$1,000 ENERGY STAR federal tax credit was extended through 2017**, retroactively. While the credit has never lapsed, we cannot know for certain that Congress will extend the credit for ENERGY STAR homes completed this year.

Questions? We are delighted to provide your plant with a short Webcast presentation and answer questions about the program changes. Please contact Gwynne Koch at gkoch@research-alliance.org to make arrangements.

Sincerely,
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