

EXHIBIT 81

Proposed Amendments to The New Hampshire Code
Review Board for the
2009 International Energy Conservation Code
September 30, 2009

A. Recommend change to the following sections:

Section 102.1.1 Above Code Programs. ~~The code official or other authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to deem a national, state or local energy efficiency program to exceed the energy efficiency of this code. Buildings approved in writing by such an energy efficiency program shall be considered in compliance with this code.~~ Homes built to the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star New Homes Construction Program standards shall be considered in compliance with this code. The requirements identified as "mandatory" in chapters 4 and 5 of this code, as applicable shall be met.

Reason for recommendation: Homes meeting the EPA's requirements have been shown to be 20% more efficient than IECC 2006. The EPA is in the process of increasing the standards to be 15-20% above IECC 2009. Approving this change will reduce inspections for local code officials and paperwork for the PUC's Energy Code Office. It will eliminate from the building contractor or homeowner for performance testing (blower door and duct testing) since these inspection fees are paid for by the NH Utilities Energy Star Program (in areas serviced by the 4 public utilities). Approximately 500+ homes are certified annually in NH.

Section 402.4.2.1 Testing Option. Building envelope tightness and insulation installation shall be considered acceptable when tested air leakage is less than seven air changes per hour (ACH) when tested with a blower door at a pressure of 33.5 psf (50 Pa). NH Public Utilities Commission Energy Code Office shall determine certification criteria for qualifications to perform testing. Testing shall occur after rough in and after installation of penetrations through the building envelope, including penetrations for utilities, plumbing, electrical, ventilation and combustion appliances.

Reason for recommendation: Incorrect testing could result in unsafe or hazardous indoor air quality issues. Combustion safety testing or mechanical ventilation recommendations may be necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

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