NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

Proposed amendment submitted by:

RE-15-22-16

Name: Paul Morin

Date: January 5, 2016

Company /Organization: NH Home Builders Association

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Applicable code: IRC 2015 Applicable code section: N1103

Current language (including section numbers and include prior adopted amendments):

N1103.3.4 Duct leakage (Prescriptive). The total leakage of the ducts, where measured in accordance with Section R403.3.3, shall be as follows:

1. Rough-in test: The total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cubic feet per minute (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area where the air handler is installed at the time of the test. Where the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, the total leakage shall be less than or equal to 3 cubic feet per minute (85 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area.

2. Postconstruction test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cubic feet per minute (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area.

Check one:

___ Delete without substitution:

___ Delete section and substitute the following:

~~Show Line through material to be deleted.~~

___ Add new section to read as follows:

_X_ Revise section to read as follows:

Underline material to be added.

Proposed code language:

N1103.3.4 Duct leakage (Prescriptive). The total leakage of the ducts, where measured in accordance with Section R403.3.3, shall be as follows:

1. Rough-in test: The total leakage shall be less than or equal to ~~4~~ 6 cubic feet per minute (~~113.3~~170 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area where the air handler is installed at the time of the test. Where the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, the total leakage shall be less than or equal to ~~3~~ 4cubic feet per minute (~~85~~ 113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area.

2. Postconstruction test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to ~~4~~ 8 cubic feet per minute (~~113.3~~226.6 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m2) of conditioned floor area.

Reason / Justification:

The amendment returns the testing limits to the IRC2009 standards. While duct leaks do have some impact on system performance, the heat/cooling losses are within the insulation envelope, and therefore not truly a loss of conditioned air. HVAC installers tell us that the current levels of tightness are good practices.

Financial Analysis/Fiscal Impact of proposed amendment:

Installers estimate that achieving the IRC2015 levels of tightness can increase the cost of an average home approximately $400.

For Building Code Review Board Use:

Not approved: _____ Approved: ✓ Approved with modifications: _____

Scheduled Hearing Date: 12 Feb 2016 Exhibit #: RE-15-22.16

Chair's Signature: _____ Date: 12 Feb 2016

Printed Name: Shalen G Bergeron Sr