

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT FORM

**RE-15-41-18**

Proposed amendment submitted by:

Name: Ari B. Pollack, Esq., On Behalf of Applicant

Date: 1/4/2019

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 (9.29m<sup>2</sup>) 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 (9.29m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area.
2. Post construction test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cubic feet per minute (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29.2) of conditioned floor area.

Check one:  Delete without substitution:

Add new section to read as follows:

Delete section and substitute the following:

Revise section to read as follows:

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

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~~<sup>6</sup> cubic feet per minute (~~113.3~~<sup>170</sup> L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m<sup>2</sup>) 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~~<sup>4</sup> cubic feet per minute (~~85~~<sup>113.3</sup> L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area.
2. Post construction test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to ~~4~~<sup>8</sup> cubic feet per minute (~~113.3~~<sup>226.6</sup> L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29.2) 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 practice.

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.

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**For Building Code Review Board Use:**

Not approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_

Approved with modifications: \_\_\_\_\_

Scheduled Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair's Signature: Shawn G. Bergen Sr

Date: 1-11-2019

Printed Name: Shawn G. Bergen Sr