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HVAC Contractors: How to Prepare for ENERGY STAR Version 3

ENERGY STAR for Homes Version 3 guidelines are effective starting January 1, 2012. Because homes qualified under the ENERGY STAR Version 3 guidelines incorporate a complete package of building-science based features that deliver efficiency, comfort, and performance, you and your builder clients will see fewer homeowner complaints and callbacks that cut into your bottom line.

As an HVAC contractor for an ENERGY STAR homebuilder partner, the following are important steps to ensure you maintain your ability to install HVAC systems in ENERGY STAR qualified homes:

- 1. Review the industry standards:** EPA will require that the HVAC systems in all homes that earn the ENERGY STAR label be installed according to industry-accepted Quality Installation (QI) guidelines established in ANSI/ACCA Standard 5. This standard, detailed at www.acca.org/quality, establishes industry accepted best practices for proper installation of HVAC systems for optimal performance – providing homeowners with comfort, efficiency, and savings.
- 2. Review the ENERGY STAR HVAC QI Contractor Checklist:** To ensure that HVAC systems are installed properly in qualified homes, you will be required to complete and sign a detailed inspection checklist based on the QI Standard. An independent Home Energy Rater will also review the checklist and validate key data points for accuracy. For the checklists, visit www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/bldrs_lenders_raters/downloads/InspectionChecklists.pdf%20.
- 3. Register for the August 10th webinar:** ACCA and ENERGY STAR Program staff will provide you with information on how to prepare your company to successfully work on ENERGY STAR Version 3 homes. Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/196964521>.
- 4. Earn the required credentials:** HVAC contractors who wish to install systems in ENERGY STAR Version 3 homes will be required to be credentialed by an EPA-recognized third-party oversight organization. At this time, credentialing is available through ACCA's Quality Assured Contractor Program, detailed at www.acca.org/qa. One representative from your company must complete the following credentialing process:
 1. Review the online orientation session at www.acca.org/archives/education-events/online-learning/cu-courses/course-descriptions/3155
 2. Complete and pass the online test
 3. Complete and submit the QA Program Compliance Checklist and Affidavit
 4. Complete and submit the QA Program Participant Agreement
- 5. Visit EPA's HVAC contractor web page:** Additional information and resources are available at www.energystar.gov/newhomesHVAC.

Contact ENERGY STAR at energystarhomes@energystar.gov with questions.

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