



The purpose of this document is to describe the city of Phoenix procedure for alternate compliance approaches as it relates to home energy efficiency and the Phoenix Building Construction Code. The code has now been amended to allow an alternative approach for compliance to IECC Section R401.2.1. The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index was developed as a way to quantify energy efficiency and standardize the results. The HERS index is a nationally recognized system for measuring a home's energy efficiency and energy performance.

A certified Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Home Energy Rater or Rating Field Inspector assesses the energy efficiency of a home, assigning it a performance score. The Rater prepares an energy rating on the home and compares the data against a home of the same size and shape as the actual home. The lower the HERS rating, the more energy efficient the home.

### **Policy**

The Phoenix Building Construction Code was amended to allow a HERS rating of 73 or below in lieu of Energy Conservation Code compliance. The index score must be confirmed in writing by a RESNET certified Home Energy Rater or Rating Field Inspector. Compliance may be demonstrated by sampling in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Systems Standard as adopted by RESNET.

Certified Home Energy Raters have adopted a template or HERS Rating Certificate that provides the minimum required information that will be provided to Inspectors (See Attachment A). City of Phoenix inspectors will at times observe HERS testing on an as needed/random basis. The city of Phoenix will provide monthly auditing of sample sets to ensure sample groupings are in compliance with RESNET Standards. The monthly sample spreadsheet should at a minimum include address, community, lot number, date each phase is completed and results for framing, blower door, duct blaster and insulation tests.

### **Procedure**

- Applicant indicates intent to use HERS and provides preliminary rating report and Building File Report if using REM/Rate software. If using different software, provide equivalent information with application and plans submittals.
- Plan reviewer conducts cursory review of reports as part of plan review.
- Plan reviewer checks HERS in permit category and indicates in permit scope the home is using a HERS energy performance path and lists the projected score in the Structure Class screen in the "HERS Proposed" box. (The score must be 73 or less)
- Inspector collects HERS rating certificate prior to final using the 697 inspection code and enters the inspection result and HERS score. Reports should be left with the construction superintendent.
- A certificate listing the various values for energy code elements is still required in the electrical box according to IECC R401.3 and RESNET 603.4.2.
- If sampling is used, the testing company must send the sampling data to General Inspections Supervisor monthly for auditing.

Attachment

A. HERS Rating Certificate

**Home Energy Rating System (HERS) In Lieu of IECC 2012 Jurisdiction  
 Inspection and Testing Form**

- This form provides proof of compliance with certain provisions of the International Residential Code, Chapter 11 and Chapter 15.
- This form shall be submitted prior to final inspection.
- Applicant is responsible for engaging a qualified HERS Rater with current certification.
- Improper certification will result in rejection of this submittal and re-inspection and testing.

The following home has passed all requirements of the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) and has been certified in accordance with Chapter 6 of the RESNET Standards. See: <a href="http://www.resnet.us/standards">www.resnet.us/standards</a>				
Permit Activity Number:		Date:		
Builder Name:		Phone:		
Project Address:				
Project Subdivision:		Lot Number:		
Framing Inspection:	Inspected	Sampled		
Insulation Inspection:	Inspected	Sampled		
Air Leakage Test:	Inspected	Sampled		
Duct Tightness Test:	Inspected	Sampled		
<b>HERS SCORE:</b>		Duct test performed (Date):	Rough-In	Final

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (HERS Rater) certify that the above home has passed all requirements of the HERS, as indicated above and has been certified in accordance with Chapter 6 of the RESNET Standards.

Provider Name: \_\_\_\_\_

HERS Rater Name: \_\_\_\_\_

RESNET Rater ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form shall be submitted to the permit issuing jurisdiction.**