

Winds of Change

Changes to the EPA Sampling Protocol

Changes to the Sampling Protocol



- The sampling protocol allows 3rd party verifiers to test randomly a minimum of 15 percent of homes from a batch of homes located within the same climate zone, and typically the same sub-division
- The Sampling Protocol is a national policy. However, a state, municipality or utility may adopt a more stringent sampling regime
- This sampling protocol does not apply to manufactured housing

Timeline for Sampling



Timeline of Sampling Protocol Revisions

Summer / Fall 2000	Sampling Protocol Testing performed by ICF Consulting - 76 homes reviewed in Phoenix, Cleveland, and Baltimore.
November 4, 2000	ICF Consulting Field Evaluation Summary Report Delivered to EPA.
February 26-28, 2001	RESNET Conference presentation by Marc Milin, Terry Smith and Paul Rimelspach on Sampling: Does Every Home Need to Be Rated?
July 2001	1st Revised Sampling Protocol Issued. This version provided more details on how to carry out sampling, including listing best practices. It is also the version that was most recently revised to make the current protocol.
March 4-6, 2002	RESNET Conference presentation by Paul Rimelspach on Results of Ohio Sampling Project.
March 4-6, 2002	RESNET Conference moderated discussion - National Dialogue on Batch Testing of Ratings (Sampling Roundtable).

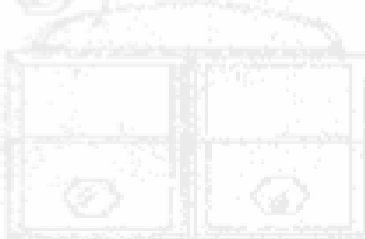

Timeline for Sampling



Spring 2002	EPA Summary of RESNET Sampling Roundtable discussion sent to Roundtable participants for review and comment.
July 31, 2002	EPA releases final version of Sampling Issues and Industry Comments, which incorporated post Sampling Roundtable comments.
November 25, 2002	EPA sends RESNET "Dialog on Sampled Verification of Energy Star Labeled Homes." It is EPA's responses and proposed actions to the issues raised at the 2002 Sampling Roundtable, as well as comments received after the session. The document is sent to RESNET to get feedback on the proposed changes before they are finalized.
November 26, 2002	RESNET sends out request for industry comments on report.
January 25, 2003	EPA receives industry comments on Sampling from RESNET.
February 24-26, 2003	RESNET Conference presentation by Terry Smith - How Reliable is Sampling? Results of Ohio Sampling Project.
December 24, 2003	Sampling Protocol revisions finalized and posted on EPA's Web site.
January 1, 2004	Revised Sampling Protocol becomes effective.
March 1-3, 2004	RESNET Conference presentation "Winds of Change": Changes to the EPA Sampling Protocol.

Changes to the Sampling Protocol



New Guidelines	Old Guidelines	Comments
Rater performing sampling must have performed over 100 ratings or demonstrated equivalent experience	No minimum experience 	RESNET to develop accreditation procedures. Change made based on comments received from sampling practitioners
The provider can determine to test more than the first three homes until provider is comfortable that homes are passing	Builder can apply sampling after the first three consecutive homes pass 	EPA did not increase the number of consecutive passing homes, but recognized that providers develop relationships with builders and do test more than three consecutive homes

Changes to the Sampling Protocol



New Guidelines	Old Guidelines	Comments
Builder can apply sampling if builder constructs less than 85 homes. However, the homes within the batch must be of the same model in same sub division	Only builders constructing 85 homes or more could apply sampling	Responding to comments concerned that old guidelines disadvantaged small builders
Repeat initial testing for each new sub-division where there is a change in subcontractors	Builder could apply sampling after three consecutive passing homes	Responding to comments that a change in subcontractors jeopardized quality construction

Changes to the Sampling Protocol



New Guidelines	Old Guidelines	Comments
<p>If a tested home fails, 30% of batch must be tested</p> <p>If another failure occurs, rater is to perform a root cause analysis and test the remaining homes in the batch</p>	<p>If tested home failed, 100% of the batch must be tested</p>	<p>Responding to comments from experienced raters that failures within a batch are usually due to a common defect. This change will minimize cost to builder.</p>
<p>A sub division with 3 failures within 6 months is ineligible for sampling</p> <p>Builder can restart sampling by performing initial testing</p>	<p>No guidance on multiple failures</p>	<p>Responding to comments that builders with a series of failures are not acting in good faith with the sampling protocol.</p>