

Alternative Bronze and Silver Level Compliance § 701.1.4



Overview

Chapter 7 Energy Efficiency includes several alternative compliance pathways for projects to demonstrate compliance. These pathways offer a substitute to addressing the NGBS requirements.

Section 701.1.4 Alternative Bronze and Silver Level Compliance identifies ENERGY STAR and IECC/IRC compliance pathways that a project could follow to earn Bronze or Silver within Chapter 7. For Bronze level, the options are ENERGY STAR Certified Homes (ESCH) v3.0, ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise (ES MFHR) Version 1.0 Rev. 03, and ICC IECC or IRC Chapter 11 compliance. For Silver level, the options are ENERGY STAR Certified Homes v3.1, ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise Version 1.0 Rev. 03 (with a baseline at ASHRAE 90.1-2010), and ICC IECC Section R401.2.1 compliance.

In 2019, EPA discontinued the ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise program and launched the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program (ES MFNC), which serves all multifamily buildings. Home Innovation was asked to accept buildings that are compliant with ES MFNC via an alternative compliance pathway.

Interpretation

The EPA ENERGY STAR label identifies that a product or building is at least 15% more efficient than applicable codes or product specifications.

At the time of this Interpretation's publication, there are two national versions of the ES MFNC program that may apply, depending on a state's adopted code. Version 1.1¹ is designed to be 15% higher performance than ASHRAE 90.1-2010. Version 1.2² is designed to be 15% higher performance than ASHRAE 90.1-2019.

For 2020 NGBS compliance, Home Innovation will recognize ES MFNC Version 1.1 compliance (via any ES MFNC compliance pathway) for Alternative Silver compliance and ES MFNC Version 1.2 compliance (via any ES MFNC compliance pathway) for Alternative Gold compliance.

Verification Instructions

Verifier must verify building has been certified to ENERGY STAR MFNC and confirm the program version via ENERGY STAR certificate and energy performance report documentation. Within the NGBS Green Scoring Tool, the appropriate Alternative pathway and ENERGY STAR option should be selected within the 701.1.4 dropdowns.

¹ [ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction National Program Requirements, Version 1.1 \(Rev. 04\)](#)

² [ENERGY STAR MFNC National Program Requirements, Version 1.2 \(Rev. 04\)](#)