

WHICH VERSION IS FOR YOU?

SELECTING YOUR BEST NGBS OPTION



Through the NGBS Green certification program, Home Innovation Research Labs certifies buildings as compliant based on the National Green Building Standard ICC-700 (NGBS). Architects, builders, and developers can currently select from two NGBS versions: the 2015 NGBS or the 2020 NGBS. The question facing those seeking NGBS Green certification is, **which NGBS version is best for your project?** This document is designed to help guide your decisions as to which NGBS version is best — see the flow chart on page 2 and the explanations below.

[A] Multifamily buildings can seek certification of the residential portion of the building OR the entire building if the retail/commercial is \leq 49% of the gross floor area. Non-residential space can earn the “Certified” level for either Core-and-Shell or Full-fitted Out & Equipped compliance.

[B] Single-family homes, townhomes, and duplexes have two certification options: 1) Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Emerald certification using NGBS Chapters 5-10, or 2) the Certified level using the 2020 NGBS Chapter 12.

[C] The 2015 Renovation pathway requires a performance-based approach to demonstrate energy and water savings. The 2020 NGBS introduced alternative prescriptive-based options that will offer additional flexibility for renovated buildings.

[D] The 2020 NGBS considers IBC I-1 occupancy, including assisted living facilities, residential board and care facilities, and group homes, as residential for certification purposes.

[E] Buildings in the Tropical Zone that comply with ICC IECC R401.2.1 achieves NGBS Silver level for Chapter 7.

[F] Buildings meeting these requirements can earn Gold though the Alternative Gold compliance level.

[G] Remodeling activities undertaken up to three years ago can count toward certification if there is sufficient documentation available.

[H] The 2020 NGBS requires that buildings in Radon Zone 1 be tested and the results provided to the building owner.

[I] For water efficiency compliance with the 2015 NGBS, buildings must earn sufficient points from the available water efficiency practices. The 2020 NGBS provides a choice for newly-constructed buildings to demonstrate compliance using either a water efficiency prescriptive path or a water performance path, known as the Water Rating Index.

