



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

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Date: July 1, 2011  
To: Mechanical and Residential Contractors  
From: Donald L. Mock P.E., Chief of Plan Review   
Subject: Building Thermal Envelope and Duct Tightness Testing

I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware that Howard County and the State of Maryland have adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). All new residential homes are required to comply with Sections 402.4.2 Air Sealing and Insulation along with Section 403.2 Ducts.

Beginning October 1, 2011, Howard County Inspections, Licenses and Permits will require all new homes to show compliance with the following items:

- 1) You must demonstrate compliance with Section 402.4.2 of the 2009 IECC by way of one of the two methods permitted under this Section. The contractor can either provide third party certification stating that a visual inspection was performed and passed in accordance with Section 402.4.2.2 or the second alternative method is to submit a third party certification indicating the passing results from a blower door test in accordance with Section 402.4.2.1.
- 2) In accordance with Section 403.2 of the 2009 IECC, anytime duct work is installed outside of the condition space, a third party certification shall be submitted indicating a duct tightness test was performed in accordance with this Section. Please note that all duct work located outside the building envelope shall be properly insulated in accordance with this Section.
- 3) You must submit a residential compliance checklist which is being sent out with this memo or similar approved equivalent documentation. This checklist must be signed by your third party contractor verifying that all the applicable items on the checklist have been properly addressed.

All of the above items must be completed before you request your final mechanical inspection. The above documentation shall be located at the electrical panel for the mechanical Inspector to pick up at time of final. If you have any questions regarding this policy, I can be reached at 410-313-3948.

Copy: Mr. Robert J. Frances, P.E., DILP, Director  
Mr. Sean Kelly, DILP, Chief of Inspections  
Mr. Nick Saucedo, DILP, Inspections  
Mr. Bruce Forejt, DILP, Inspections  
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