



<b>Issue Date</b>	December 9, 2013
<b>Code/Section</b>	2012 IRC Section N1101.7 (IECC R102.1.1)
<b>Approved:</b>	Technical Review Team
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**Issue:** Per the 2012 IRC Section N1101.7 (IECC R102.1.1), the building official or other authority having jurisdiction shall be permitted to deem a national, state or local energy efficiency program to exceed the energy efficiency required by this code. Buildings approved in writing by such an energy efficiency program shall be considered in compliance with this code. The requirements identified as mandatory in IRC Chapter 11 (IECC Chapter 4) shall be met.

The ENERGY STAR program was established to provide a nationwide baseline for design of energy efficient homes. The current version 3.0 of the program is known as ENERGY STAR v3 and is based on the minimum requirements of the 2009 IECC as a baseline for energy conservation compliance.

**Interpretation:** The 2012 IRC (based on 2012 IECC) was adopted in July of 2013 and is the current minimum energy conservation standard in Phoenix. A comparison of individual efficiency requirements between the 2012 IRC (2012 IECC) and ENERGY STAR v3 was completed. It was determined that ENERGY STAR v3 does not meet or exceed the requirements of the 2012 IRC (2012 IECC). Some of the obvious deficiencies of ENERGY STAR v3 in comparison to the 2012 IRC (2012 IECC) include;

- Lower ceiling insulation R-values (R-30 versus R-38)
- Less efficient windows (U-factors and SHGC)
- Higher blower door leakage allowed
- No window or door leakage ratings
- Allows double the amount of duct leakage
- No programmable thermostats required for performance method
- No pipe insulation required

ENERGY STAR v3 in its latest version is not stringent enough to claim equivalency with the 2012 IRC (2012 IECC) and should not be considered as an above code program. When an updated version of ENERGY STAR is released, we should then re-evaluate.