

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
TDHCA Governing Board Approved Draft of
10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities
Disclaimer

Attached is a draft of the proposed 10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities that was approved by the TDHCA Governing Board on September 2, 2021. This action includes repeal of the current rule, and adoption of a new rule in its place. However, the document attached reflects all changes proposed in tracked changes to facilitate review. This document, including its preamble, is scheduled to be published in the September 17, 2021 edition of the *Texas Register* and that published version will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment. The version herein is informational only and should not be relied upon as the basis for public comment.

Public Comment

Public Comment Period: **Starts: 8:00 a.m. Austin local time on September 17, 2021**
Ends: 5:00 pm. Austin local time on October 18, 2021

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on October 18, 2021 will not be accepted.

Written comments may be submitted, in hard copy/fax or electronic formats to:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Attn: Abigail Versyp
EE Rule Public Comment
P.O. Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Email: abigail.versyp@tdhca.state.tx.us

Written comments may be submitted in hard copy, fax, or email formats within the designated public comment period. Those making public comment are encouraged to reference the specific draft rule, policy, or plan related to their comment as well as a specific reference or cite associated with each comment.

Please be aware that all comments submitted to the TDHCA will be considered public information.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Street Address: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701
Mailing Address: PO Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941
Main Number: 512-475-3800 Toll Free: 1-800-525-0657
Email: info@tdhca.state.tx.us Web: www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Attachment A: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities.

The purpose of the proposed repeal is to eliminate an outdated rule while adopting a new updated rule under separate action.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

1. Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect, the proposed repeal does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the repeal, and simultaneous readoption making changes to existing minimum energy efficiency standards for Single Family Programs.

2. The proposed repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor is the proposed repeal significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that any existing employee positions are eliminated.

3. The proposed repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.

4. The proposed repeal does not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department or a decrease in fees paid to the Department.

5. The proposed repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.

6. The proposed action will repeal an existing regulation, but is associated with a simultaneous readoption making changes to existing minimum energy efficiency standards for Single Family Programs.

7. The proposed repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.

8. The proposed repeal will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated this proposed repeal and determined that the proposed repeal will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed repeal does not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6). The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has also determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the repealed section would be an updated and more germane rule. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, enforcing or administering the repeal does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held September 17, 2021, to October 18, 2021, to receive input on the proposed repealed section. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Abigail Versyp, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email HOME@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, October 18, 2021.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed repealed sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

CHAPTER 21 MINIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

§21.1 Purpose

§21.2 General Requirements

§21.3 Definitions

§21.4 New Construction and Reconstruction Activities

§21.5 Manufactured Housing Unit Activities

§21.6 Rehabilitation Activities

Attachment B: Preamble for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 21, Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for Single Family Construction Activities. The purpose of the proposed new sections is to implement a more germane rule and provide flexibility in the event of limited supply of EnergyStar Certified Manufactured Housing Units.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson, Executive Director, has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new rule would be in effect:

1. The proposed rule does not create or eliminate a government program, but relates to the readoption of this rule which makes changes to minimum energy efficiency requirements for the Department's Single Family Programs.
2. The proposed new rule does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The proposed rule changes do not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The proposed rule changes will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department or a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The proposed rule is not creating a new regulation, except that it is replacing a rule being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The proposed rule will not expand or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The proposed rule will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The proposed rule will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002. The Department, in drafting this proposed rule, has attempted to reduce any adverse economic effect on small or micro-business or rural communities while remaining consistent with the statutory requirements of Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111.

1. The Department has evaluated this rule and determined that none of the adverse effect strategies outlined in Tex. Gov't Code §2006.002(b) are applicable.

2. There are approximately 60 rural communities currently participating in construction activities under Single Family Programs that are subject to the proposed rule for which no economic impact of the rule is projected during the first year the rule is in effect.

3. The Department has determined that because the rule serves to implement a more germane rule and provide flexibility in the event of limited supply of EnergyStar Certified Manufactured Housing Units, and does not establish new requirements for which there would be an associated cost, there will be no economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed rule does not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6). The Department has evaluated the rule as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the rule will be in effect the proposed rule has no economic effect on local employment because the proposed rule provides flexibility in the event of limited supply of EnergyStar Certified Manufactured Housing Units, and does not establish new requirements or activities that may positively or negatively impact local economies.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.022(a) states that this "impact statement must describe in detail the probable effect of the rule on employment in each geographic region affected by this rule..." Considering that participation in the Department's Single Family Programs is at the discretion of the local government or other eligible subrecipients, there are no "probable" effects of the new rule on particular geographic regions.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has also determined that, for each year of the first five years the new section is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the new section will be a more germane rule that provides flexibility in the event of limited supply of EnergyStar Certified Manufactured Housing Units. There will not be any economic cost to any individuals required to comply with the new section because the processes described by the rule have already been in place through the rule found at this section being repealed.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the new section is in effect, enforcing or administering the new section does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments because the rule updates and clarifies existing requirements and does not impose new requirements.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held September 17, 2021, to October 18, 2021, to receive input on the new proposed section. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Abigail Versyp, Rule Comments, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 8711-3941, by fax to (512) 475-0220, or email abigail.versyp@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, October 18, 2021.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The new sections are proposed pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed new sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

CHAPTER 21 MINIMUM ENERGY EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SINGLE FAMILY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

§21.1 Purpose

(a) Tex. Gov't Code, §2306.187 requires that the Department develop and adopt rules relating to Minimum Energy Efficiency requirements for new construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation activities in Single Family Programs.

(b) This chapter describes the Minimum Energy Efficiency Requirements for all single family construction activities, which includes the Department's HOME Investments Partnership Program (HOME), Texas Housing Trust Fund (Texas HTF), Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Office of Colonia Initiatives (OCI) Programs, and other single family ~~programs~~Programs as developed by the Department.

§21.2 General Requirements

Unless otherwise noted, this chapter only applies to single family ~~programs~~Programs. Program rules may impose additional requirements related to any provision of this chapter. Elements of local residential building codes that require a greater degree of energy efficiency than this chapter, in part or in whole, shall also be followed.

§21.3 Definitions

(a) Any capitalized terms that are defined in Tex. Gov't Code, ~~§ Chapter~~ Chapter 2306, and Chapter 1 of this ~~titlePart~~ (relating to Administration), Chapter 2 of this ~~titlePart~~ (relating to Enforcement), Chapter 20 of this ~~titlePart~~ (relating to Single Family Programs Umbrella Rule), or other applicable Department Program Rule, have, when capitalized, the meanings ascribed to them therein.

(b) The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context or the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) indicates otherwise.

(1) ENERGY STAR Certified Appliances, Equipment, and Products--Labeled appliances, equipment, and products that are independently certified to save energy without sacrificing features or functionality, meeting the US EPA's specifications for energy efficiency and performance.

(2) ENERGY STAR Certified Home--A new construction home that has earned the ENERGY STAR label and has undergone a process of inspections, testing, and verification to meet requirements set forth by the US EPA.

(3) ENERGY STAR Certified Manufactured Housing Unit--A manufactured home that has been designed, produced and installed by the home manufacturer to meet ENERGY STAR requirements for energy efficiency.

(4) RESNET--Residential Energy Services Network. RESNET is an independent, nonprofit organization established in 1995 to help homeowners reduce the cost of their utility bills by making their homes more

energy efficient. RESNET-certified Home Energy Systems Raters are required to inspect, test, and verify homes for ENERGY STAR certification.

(5) WaterSense Labeled Fixtures--Labeled products that are backed by independent, third-party testing and certification, meeting the US EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

(6) US EPA--United States Environmental Protection Agency.

§21.4 New Construction and Reconstruction Activities

(a) Single family residential dwellings, as defined in §388.002 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, that are newly constructed or reconstructed shall comply with §388 of the Health and Safety Code (Texas Building Energy Performance Standards).

(b) Effective September 1, 2016, the Texas State Energy Conservation Office adopted the 2015 International Residential Code (Chapter 11) as the state-mandated energy code for all residential construction, which includes one- and two-family residences of three stories or less above grade.

§21.5 Manufactured Housing Unit Activities

(a) All Manufactured Housing Units installed as replacement for sub-standard housing shall be ENERGY STAR certified-; or

(b) In cases where the type of product is not ENERGY STAR, or if ENERGY STAR products are not reasonably available due to supply shortages or cost limitations, Administrators may select the highest rated product available, so long as the product delivers at least 10% energy savings in comparison to products meeting the minimum code.

§21.6 Rehabilitation Activities

(a) All Rehabilitation activities shall comply with this chapter.

(b) Certifications of compliance with this cChapter shall be conducted by the Administrator or a code or other Qualified Inspector,qualified inspector for release of final payment from the Department as outlined in the Program Rule. Inspectors selected by the Administrator to verify compliance with this chapter must be certified by the Administrator to have sufficient professional certifications, relevant education or experience in a field directly related to home inspection, which may include but is not limited to installing, servicing, repairing or maintaining the structural, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems found in Single Family Housing Units.

(c) If the proposed scope of work or the awarded construction contract for the Rehabilitation of an existing single family residential unit includes an item described in paragraphs (1) - (10) of this subsection, the specific requirement so noted in paragraphs (1) - (10) shall apply:

(1) Replacement or installation of central heating and cooling equipment and appliances shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the requirements of Chapter 14 of the 2015 International Residential Code;

(2) Replacement or installation of duct systems serving heating, cooling and ventilation equipment shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 16 of the 2015 International Residential Code;

(3) If central heating and cooling equipment is replaced or installed, attic insulation shall be installed or increased according to Chapter 11, Figure N1102.1.2 of the 2015 International Residential Code, including insulation covering the top plates of exterior walls. Eave baffles and access hatches shall be installed as specified in Chapter 11, Sections N1102.2.3- N1102.2.4 of the 2015 International Residential Code.

(4) If ductless heating and cooling systems (also known as mini-split, multi-split or variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat pump systems) are replaced or installed, they shall be ENERGY STAR certified;

(5) If exhaust fans are replaced or installed in bathrooms or kitchens, they shall be ENERGY STAR certified and installed in accordance with Chapter 15 of the 2015 International Residential Code;

(6) If windows are installed, they shall be ENERGY STAR certified windows, meeting the U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient for the climate zone of the dwelling as identified in Chapter 11, Table N1102.1.2 of the 2015 International Residential Code;

(7) If doors are installed, they shall be ENERGY STAR certified doors;

(8) Electrical fixtures, equipment and appliances that are replaced or installed, where applicable, shall be ENERGY STAR certified products;

(9) Plumbing fixtures that are replaced or installed, where applicable, shall be WaterSense labeled products; and

(10) Domestic water heaters, storage and tankless, when replaced or installed, shall meet the Federal Energy Conservation Standards required by 10 CFR §430.32, as they may be revised from time to time.