



## **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION**

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### **Industrialized Housing and Buildings**

#### ***Technical Bulletin***

#### **IHB TB 12-02 – Blower Door Test -- Residential Occupancies**

***Revised April 17, 2017***

#### **Code: 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)**

#### **Referenced Sections: 402.4 Air leakage (Mandatory)**

The 2015 Energy Conservation Code becomes effective for the Texas Industrialized Housing and Buildings program on August 1, 2017. There is no option for visual inspection in lieu of the blower door test in the 2015 code.

The 2015 IECC now requires residential occupancies, including detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) as well as Group R-2, R-3 and R-4 buildings three stories or less in height, to pass a blower door test.

***A FINAL INSPECTION CANNOT BE PASSED WITHOUT A TEST REPORT DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE.***

#### **IECC 402.4.1.2 – Testing. Blower door test required**

The test is performed after the building is installed.

The building or dwelling shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rating not exceeding the following:

- Five air changes per hour in Climate Zone 2
- Three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 and 4

The test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM E 779 or ASTM E1827 and reported at a pressure of 0.2 inch w.g. (50 Pascals). The test report shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the Council approved inspector responsible for the installation inspections. For housing and buildings installed within the jurisdiction of a municipality, a report shall be provided to the local authorities in accordance with the requirements of the municipality.

During testing:

- Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weather stripping or other infiltration control measures.
- Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures.
- Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open.
- Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed.
- Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off.
- Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.