

# Alternative Bronze and Silver Level Compliance § 701.1.4



## Overview

Chapter 7 Energy Efficiency includes several alternative compliance pathways for projects to demonstrate compliance. These pathways offer a substitute to address the NGBS requirements.

Section 701.1.4 Alternative Bronze and Silver Level Compliance identifies ENERGY STAR and IECC/IRC compliance pathways that a project could follow to earn Bronze or Silver within Chapter 7. For Bronze level, the options are ENERGY STAR Certified Homes (ESCH) v3.0, ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise (ES MFHR) Version 1.0 Rev. 03, and ICC IECC or IRC Chapter 11 compliance. For Silver level, the options are ENERGY STAR Certified Homes v3.1, ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise Version 1.0 Rev. 03 (with a baseline at ASHRAE 90.1-2010), and ICC IECC Section R401.2.1 compliance.

ENERGY STAR adoption is based on a state building code adoption, and the program is updated at regular intervals for ongoing market transformation. EPA has transitioned to newer versions of program requirements since the 2020 NGBS was published.

In 2019, EPA discontinued the ENERGY STAR Multifamily High Rise program and launched the ENERGY STAR Multifamily New Construction program (ES MFNC), which serves all multifamily buildings. Home Innovation was asked to accept buildings that are compliant with ES MFNC via an alternative compliance pathway.

## Interpretation

The EPA ENERGY STAR label identifies that a product or building is at least 10% more efficient than applicable codes or product specifications.

ENERGY STAR Certified Homes v3.2 is designed to be 10% above 2021 IECC. Home Innovation recognizes v3.2 as a pathway for Alternative Gold level compliance. At the time of this Interpretation's publication, there are two national versions of the ES MFNC program that may apply, depending on a state's adopted code. Version 1.1 is designed to be 15% higher performance than ASHRAE 90.1-2010<sup>1</sup>. Version 1.2 is designed to be 15% higher performance than ASHRAE 90.1-2019<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/ENERGY%20STAR%20MFNC%20National%20Program%20Requirements%20Version%201.1\\_Rev04.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/ENERGY%20STAR%20MFNC%20National%20Program%20Requirements%20Version%201.1_Rev04.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/ENERGY%20STAR%20MFNC%20National%20Program%20Requirements%20Version%201.2\\_Rev04.pdf](https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/ENERGY%20STAR%20MFNC%20National%20Program%20Requirements%20Version%201.2_Rev04.pdf)

For 2020 NGBS compliance, Home Innovation will recognize ES MFNC Version 1.1 compliance (via any ES MFNC compliance pathway) for Alternative Silver compliance and ES MFNC Version 1.2 compliance (via any ES MFNC compliance pathway) for Alternative Gold compliance.

## Verification Instructions

Verifier must verify building has been certified to ENERGY STAR and confirm the program version via ENERGY STAR certificate and energy performance report documentation. Within the NGBS Green Scoring Tool, the appropriate Alternative pathway and ENERGY STAR option should be selected within the 701.1.4 dropdowns.