

11-29-09-Notes to raters

Good day raters,

Hope you are enjoying the season!

There are changes brewing here at AHFC. Many of you know we are in the process of changing the requirements for becoming an Energy Rater, and Energy Rater recertification. This process has taken longer than anticipated which is why most of you have questions about what will happen in March, 2010 when your current contract expires. I have attached the proposed regulation changes. These will amend the state statutes, 15 AAC 155.510 through 15 ACC 155.560.

The current rater agreements expire March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. In addition to the changes to the regulations, there will also be education requirements for renewal based on P&P A-5. Proof of attendance to the following classes will be required; Combustion Safety Training, Advanced Blower Door, Moisture Control-Ventilation, Advanced AKWarm. Obtaining a Building Analyst Certification through the Building Performance Institute is a requirement as well. Any of these classes taken since March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 are valid.

Due to the delay in regulation changes we will be extending the current contracts from March 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. This contract extension will allow more time for you to fully understand what the new requirements are, and provide time to complete the required training.

[Please take the time to talk to your customers. We have one person at AFHC who does nothing but answer the phone. Numerous complaints come in concerning raters who don't return calls, or who don't explain their improvements, or how the program works. Many times, we have to refer them back to the rater who may not be returning their calls.](#)

This question has come up a couple of times recently. When performing a post rating, a Blower Door test is required. It does not matter what improvements the homeowner has made. Any improvement may affect the air leakage in a home. All post ratings require a Blower Door test.

There will be a rater meeting December 16<sup>th</sup> in Fairbanks, 8:30 AM at CCHRC.

Proposed rater meeting December 9<sup>th</sup> Mat-Su

Proposed rater meeting December 14<sup>th</sup> Soldotna

Proposed rater meeting December 16<sup>th</sup> Anchorage

**AHFC will be hiring another Energy Specialist I. Look it up on the AHFC website. Applications due by December 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**REMINDER!!!** AS OF **DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**, ALL RATINGS SUBMITTED TO AHFC MUST BE COMPLETED ON AKWARM 2.0.5.4!!!! RATINGS COMPLETED AFTER DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> USING THE INCORRECT AKWARM VERSION WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU!!!

Combustion test efficiency: When entering combustion efficiencies in AKWARM you need to understand the following: The Combustion test efficiency gets adjusted for part-load and standby losses by AkWarm to calculate seasonal efficiency. This will result in the software showing a lower efficiency on the features report. A combustion test efficiency entered at 60% often comes out as 45% on the features report. If you are doing a combustion efficiency test, it is not an AFUE, and is not an average representation of the efficiency of the unit. Using the combustion efficiency test can significantly alter the outcome of the report. Make sure you use this feature with discretion. AFUE is already adjusted for these factors. An AFUE value will be the same on the features report as it is on the heat tab.<sup>[AK1]</sup>