



June 9, 2015

Richard S. (Dick) Browdy
 Chairman, Florida Building Commission
 President, Browdy & Browdy, Inc.
 6944 St. Augustine Road , Suite D
 Jacksonville , Florida 32217

It has come to our attention that the cost of whole-house air leakage (blower door) testing of homes has been added to the June 19, 2015, Florida Building Commission meeting agenda as Item #10 regarding the requirements for homes built under the 2014 Florida Building Code, Fifth Edition (2014). As trainers of individuals who are certified to conduct these tests, we would like to offer our professional opinion regarding these testing requirements.

In the table below, we provide our best estimate of time required to accomplish blower door testing in a typical single-family home. Very large homes, homes with multiple fireplaces or other unusual features may require more time. Homes bundled and available for testing at one time will save the travel time to and from the site. Multifamily dwellings with multiple units available will also result in less time.

The blower door air leakage test should be conducted after all electrical, plumbing and HVAC penetrations have been sealed. The table below indicates time requirements based on a moderately experienced tester (15 homes of experience) who has completed our training and passed our practical examinations.

Event	Time Estimate (minutes)
Seal up house: any open windows, doors, doggie doors, ventilation openings and fireplaces. Calculate volume of house (square footage x (average ceiling height + span between floors)).	5 to 15
Put any combustion water heater in vacation mode, shut off any HVAC equipment, remove filter	5
Set up blower door	5 - 10
Turn on fan and check house for any missed openings	5
Conduct test, record values in software app, email results	5 – 10
Take down blower door	5
Return house to mode as found	5
Total on site	35 – 55
Total with 60 minutes round trip travel	95 – 105





In an eight-hour day a single tester could test of 4 or 5 homes if each test home is a 30 minute trip from the preceding test home. If homes are located together a single tester could test 8 to 12 homes. Working 200 days a year a single tester could test 800 to 2400 new homes.

We have been conducting training and certification of certified home energy raters, including blower door testing, for nineteen years. As part of our RESNET-accredited Training Provider experience, we perform Quality Assurance on certified Raters to make sure they are conducting testing correctly. The 122 certified HERS energy raters who have maintained their certification in Florida are fully capable of conducting the necessary testing.

We also are offering a one-day course on blower-door testing that qualifies successful students to become certified as blower door testers. We currently have openings for 168 students this year and could add more classes if needed. If requested, we can bring this class anywhere in the state.

Sincerely,

Rob Vieira

Director, Buildings Research Division

Florida Solar Energy Center

A Research Institute of the University of Central Florida

1679 Clearlake Road

Cocoa, FL 32922

321-638-1404

robin@fsec.ucf.edu

