

Thanks Ann for your comments on the TAM.

Many communities have made their own report templates despite the availability of BOAF and FSEC reports in 2014. We will be happy to include whatever reports the FBC desires. I think builders and software vendors would prefer the same report be used statewide, and perhaps the report itself could become part of the next code cycle modifications and included in the Code Appendix. The code carries more weight than the TAM. The TAM suggests formats for software reports but software approval is up to the FBC.

We have concerns that you provide only one option for the Envelope Leakage report. The option provided only applies for homes that comply via the prescriptive compliance method. Homes that comply using the performance method (i.e. Section R405) may have claimed envelope air leakage less than 7 ACH50. Thus, there needs to be an input for the envelope leakage amount claimed on the R405 report. You have accomplished providing for this option on the duct leakage report. In the TAM we provide two slightly different envelope air leakage testing reports –one for prescriptive that is similar to the one you have for R402 and one for the Section R405 performance method. I suggest software vendors be required to print two blower door reports, one for prescriptive with the 7ACH50 requirement, and one for performance with the ability to include the leakage submitted on the R405 report.

I am concerned that building officials are only checking against ACH50 of 7 instead of against the value entered on the R405 report. We have voiced this concern a few times to BOAF members and those working with them, including during the formation of the BOAF reports. I assume BOAF will be updating the report for 2017, and I suggest BOAF edit it to include an option for the R405 performance method requirement.

Regarding the amount of data - I think the duct test reports are pretty much the same. The TAM report includes a section of R403.3.3 of the code that I think is important to include regarding who is authorized to conduct the tests. BOAF has one duct test report with a check box for prescriptive or performance whereas the TAM, which provides direction to software providers, breaks the duct test into two different reports.

The TAM air leakage report includes the ability to enter C, N, R test result values and locations for a tester to put up to five measured flows from which software tools can calculate the regression and the resulting ACH50. Other extraneous data from the 2014 TAM have been removed. The TAM report spells out all of Section R402.4.1.2 whereas the BOAF report does not. I believe that this section of the code is helpful for the tester and reduces uncertainty among testers who may have been trained differently. The BOAF report has a box for indicating how the building volume was calculated and that information is not on the current TAM report but is helpful to inspectors and should be added. As described earlier, any home permitted using either the performance (R405) or ERI (R406) compliance methods will need to include the ACH50 value used for the compliance calculations. Finally, the reports submitted by BOAF are labeled as for the 2014 code, all report references will need to be updated to the 2017 code.

I think the Energy TAC should weigh in on their desires. I would recommend the following:

The TAM should include a duct test report similar to the BOAF report but with the added language of R403.3.3 shown on the TAM prescriptive duct test report. This one report could be used for prescriptive or performance with the check box as the BOAF report shows.

The TAM envelope air leakage test reports (i.e. blower door test results) should

- Clearly show the required ACH50 value when compliance is by either the R405 performance method or the R406 ERI compliance method. This may be best handled with separate reports for prescriptive and performance compliance.
- While the C, N, R values and the multipoint test values may be helpful to anyone performing quality assurance and could be inputs to the software product, for simplicity, they should be dropped from the report for brevity.
- The TAM report should include how the building volume was calculated as shown on the BOAF report.
- The TAM report should maintain the full details of section R402.4.1.2 currently shown on the TAM report.

Rob Vieira
Director, Buildings Research Division
Florida Solar Energy Center
A Research Institute of the University of Central Florida