

TO: Rural Development State Directors

ATTN: Rural Housing Program Directors
Rural Development Area Offices
State Architects, Engineers, Construction Analysts
and Inspectors

FROM: Tony Hernandez /s/ **Tony Hernandez**
Administrator
Rural Housing Service

SUBJECT: The affect of the Energy Independence and Security
Act of 2007 on RHS Projects

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME:

The purpose of this Administrative Notice (AN) is to inform the Rural Development staff that Rural Housing Service now complies with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Act) to govern the energy requirements for all Rural Housing Service, Single Family Housing Loan and Grant programs related to new construction projects. The Act carries standards for the efficiency of equipment and appliances installed in residential homes and buildings.

This Act does not affect the requirements for Rural Development Multi-Family construction or manufactured homes. For new manufactured homes, Rural Development continues to follow the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (FMHCSS), commonly called the "HUD Code". Multi Family construction shall comply with state code requirements or Rural Development state requirements, whichever is most stringent.

This AN supplements and clarifies the requirements in RD Instruction 1924-A, Exhibit D and is considered the minimum standards for construction of residential buildings newly built with Rural Development finances.

EXPIRATION DATE:
June 30, 2016

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:
Preceding RD Instruction 1924-A

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN:

This AN is new. The AN is effective until the expiration date or until the Department of Energy establishes new standards for energy efficiency on housing as required by the Act, whichever is earlier. In the latter case, additional guidance will be provided.

BACKGROUND:

The Act establishes the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) as the standard for energy conservation requirements on new residential construction. Rural Housing Service has adopted the requirements where applicable. Single Family Housing programs fall under this Act pursuant to the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, 42 U.S.C., section 12709, (a)(1)(B) which is modified by the Act.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

For single family, new construction, renovation or repairs of properties funded by Rural Housing Service, other than manufactured homes, the thermal standards are now determined by the IECC-2009.

Please direct all questions pertaining to this AN to William Downs, Supervisory Architect, at (202) 720-1499, email: william.downs@wdc.usda.gov of the Rural Housing Service, Program Support Staff.