



Temporary Waiver to Use Non-ENERGY STAR Certified Appliances during Supply Chain Disruptions related to COVID 19 October 2020

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) builder partners are currently facing significant supply chain challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. These supply chain challenges can increase costs and cause significant delays in constructing and delivering Zero Energy Ready Homes. The availability of ENERGY STAR Certified appliances, which are required by the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program for several product categories, is a common supply chain challenge for builders currently. To assist ZERH builder partners with this issue, the DOE ZERH program is temporarily offering the following waiver.

On a temporary basis, the DOE ZERH program requirement to use ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators, dishwashers, and clothes washers may be waived if all of the following criteria are met:

- All other DOE Zero Energy Ready Home program requirements for the home are met
- The required DOE ZERH Target HERS score is still met by the home, when the home's energy model reflects the use of any non-ENERGY STAR Certified appliances that are being used.
- The DOE ZERH partner must contact the program (zero@newportpartnersllc.com) to attest that their use of non-ENERGY STAR Certified appliances is due to supply chain issues, and to notify the program that they are utilizing this waiver. If the builder is notifying the program, then they must also notify their Rater of the intent to use non-ENERGY STAR Certified appliances in accordance with this waiver.

Partners may also notify the DOE ZERH program that they intend to utilize this waiver on an as-needed basis, if they are uncertain as to which specific homes it may be applied. For partners that utilize this waiver on an as-needed basis, the builder and/or their Rater must maintain a record for at least 3 years of those homes that actually utilize this waiver and install non-ENERGY STAR certified appliances. DOE does not require that this record be submitted, but may request confirmation that a particular home utilized the waiver.

This temporary policy is in effect for homes with building permits dated within the following date range: March 1, 2020 to September 1, 2021.