



Modification of the October 2020 Temporary Waiver to Use Non-ENERGY STAR Certified Appliances December 2021

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) builder partners have continued to face ongoing supply chain challenges which began to emerge with the onset of 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 refrigerators, which are required by the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Version 1 program, has continued to be a common supply chain challenge for builders. 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 Version 1 program requirement to use ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators may be waived if all of the following criteria are met:

- All other applicable DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Version 1 program requirements for the home are met
- The required DOE ZERH Version 1 Target HERS score is still met by the home, when the home's energy model reflects the use of the non-ENERGY STAR Certified refrigerator

This policy is in effect for homes with completion dates from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2023.

This policy modifies the earlier [October 2020 waiver policy](#) in the following ways:

- This policy applies only to refrigerators, whereas the October 2020 policy also applied to dishwashers and clothes washers
- This policy is in effect for homes with completion dates from 1/1/2020 – 1/1/2023. The October 2020 policy was in effect for homes with building permit dates from 3/1/2020 – 9/1/2021.
- This policy does not require that the builder contact the DOE ZERH to utilize the policy while the October 2020 had this requirement in place.

This policy does not restrict the ability of partners to utilize the October 2020 ENERGY STAR appliance waiver policy, if a project is eligible to use that policy based on its terms.

Finally, this policy aligns with the draft DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Version 2 National Program Requirements.