NCC 2022 NatHERS Software updates

The National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 energy efficiency changes are being adopted from 1 May 2023, with a transition period to 1 October 2023.

To support the transition to 7-stars and Whole of Home assessments, the benchmark tool AccuRate Home is now available. It can be used to model and produce ratings for all new dwellings. It is compliant with the new NCC 2022 requirements.

From next month (April) new certificates (with a thermal star and Whole of Home rating) can be generated for dwellings modelled in AccuRate Home. There is no need to re-assess designs again.

Currently AccuRate Sustainability is still available for use with NCC 2019.

Are other commercial tools now accredited?

All commercial tool providers are currently applying for re-accreditation which is expected to be approved as quickly as possible.

Keep an eye on the NatHERS website for regular updates.

But you can be testing designs right now, read on for more information on how.

Test the NatHERS thermal performance changes (building shell)

HERO, BERS Pro and FirstRate5 have released beta versions for NatHERS thermal assessments so users can test the effects of the new climate files and updated starbands. FirstRate5 and AccuRate Home also include the updated heating and cooling load limits.

Beta versions are expected to be fully accredited by May when they can be used for regulatory purposes. In the interim, results from testing will be indicative of the ratings by fully accredited software.

As an interim approach for beta tools that do not yet have the updated load limits, we recommend looking at the ABCB's NatHERS Heating and Cooling Load Limits 2022.

Currently, only Accurate Home includes the NCC 2022 thermal bridging changes for steel-framed dwellings. As an interim approach for beta tools that do not have the thermal bridging changes, see the Thermal Bridging Report for the expected star rating impacts for thermal bridging on homes in different locations.

Find out more
visit nathers.gov.au/accredited-software

More about Whole of Home assessments (major fixtures* and appliances)

To assist you to better understand and apply the Whole of Home requirements, three tools are now available:

- CSIRO's AccuRate Home tool.

- The ABCB's easy-to-use NCC Whole of Home Calculator (beta version) developed for the Deemed To Satisfy (DTS) elemental compliance option. Test the dwelling's design by entering details for the major fixtures and appliances. Getting a pass in the ABCB calculator is equivalent to a score of at least 60 for class 1 buildings and 50 for class 2 and class 4 part of buildings in NatHERS Whole of Home tools.

- Sustainability Victoria's First Rate5 Whole of Home Pilot Tool includes all the key modules for a Whole of Home assessment method. The tool will calculate annual energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Note this tool is for testing only and cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

As an interim approach, a combination of the software tools and Whole of Home calculators can be downloaded to test the new features and explore the effects on the design of dwellings and its major fixtures and appliances:

- AccuRate Home

- HERO

- BERS Pro

- FirstRate5

- FirstRate5 Whole of Home Pilot Tool

- NCC Whole of Home Calculator

Lighting and pool equipment, rooftop photovoltaic (PV) systems and batteries.

Find out more
visit nathers.gov.au/accredited-software

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Free online Whole of Home training

Training for new Whole of Home assessments, will be delivered via two free webinars – an **overview** module and a **technical** module. A test and certificate are offered at the end of both sessions.

The **technical module** presumes the participant has completed the overview module or has some prior knowledge of the new provisions. The technical module is <u>mandatory</u> for professionals who want to become certified Whole of Home assessors.

Training will run from March through to August. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points will be given for attendance.

Software specific training will become available as tools are accredited during the year.

Register for sessions on the NatHERS website.

Find out more
visit nathers.gov.au/accredited-software