



NCC 2022 NatHERS Software Updates

17 July 2023



NCC 2022 changes

The energy efficiency requirements for new homes are changing in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022. This includes:

- an increase to a **7-star minimum** thermal rating
- the inclusion of a new **Whole of Home** energy budget, including major fixed appliances and on-site generation and storage.

NatHERS tools, including both the benchmark tool and commercial tools are being updated and re-accredited as quickly as possible to support these changes.



Benchmark tool

The benchmark tool [AccuRate Home](#) is accredited and can be used to produce ratings and certificates for all new dwellings, including apartments, town houses and detached homes. It can be used for regulatory purposes for both thermal (building shell) and Whole of Home assessments.

The software has new features and data sets incorporating thermal bridging changes for steel-framed dwellings and updated heating and cooling load limits.

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



*Please note: AccuRate Home will be replacing AccuRate Sustainability. During the transition to NCC 2022 (until 1 October) both software tools can be used for regulatory purposes. After 1 October Accurate Sustainability will be phased out. Software licence fees may apply. Please contact the [energy inspection team](#) for more information.

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Commercial tools

Thermal assessments

All commercial software tools, including [Hero](#), [FirstRate5](#) and [BERS Pro](#), are conditionally accredited for regulatory purposes for thermal (building shell) assessments.

[FirstRate5](#) and [BERS Pro](#) are still working on functionality to generate thermal certificates, ratings reports and stamps in the new format.

Please note that software providers may not publicly release their tools immediately after being accredited — the NatHERS Administrator has no control over when software tools are released. Please contact [the FirstRate5 team](#), [the BERS Pro team](#) or [the Hero team](#) for more information on release dates.



Whole of Home assessments

The benchmark tool, [AccuRate Home](#), is fully accredited for Whole of Home assessments and can be used for regulatory purposes.

No commercial tools are currently accredited for Whole of Home assessments. In the meantime, you can use the benchmark tool (AccuRate Home) or you can use one of the following tools for testing purposes:

- The [ABCB's NCC Whole of Home Calculator](#). 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 buildings in NatHERS Whole of Home tools. *Note: This is not a compliance tool or verification method. It is provided to aid practitioners in developing their understanding of the NCC requirements.*
- [Sustainability Victoria's First Rate5 Whole of Home Pilot Tool](#) includes all the key modules for a Whole of Home assessment. It calculates annual energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions. *Note: For testing purposes only. Currently cannot be used for regulatory purposes.*

As an interim approach, a combination of the thermal assessment tools and Whole of Home calculators can be downloaded to test the new features and explore their effects on dwellings and their appliances.

Find out more
visit nathers.gov.au

