

CHANGES MADE TO MINNESOTA RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CODE RELATING TO BLOWER DOOR TESTING.

Following are a few points of interest with links to energy codes for reference.

The Minnesota Residential Energy Code (Code number RE402.4.1.2) now specifies that blower door leakage tests at negative 50 pascals be 3 air changes per hour (ACH) or better when the home is depressurized to a negative 50 pascals. This is true for log or conventional construction. The old energy code was 5 ACH.

See Page 77 at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/BOL_MN_Residential_Energy.pdf.

Air leakage in log homes is the major source of heat loss and high heating bills. They can be built tight.

The air leakage of a log home can be quantified with a blower door test. The test can be obtained through several of the power companies who have the equipment and trained personnel. The certifying agency for blower door technicians is the Building Performance Institute. Certified technicians are not required per code, unless local building official requires it.

Also, now all homes are required to have a heat recovery ventilation system. Here is another good guide for the owner builder in terms of energy loss in residential construction. This is the detail area of building green.

There is a pdf available on the following link:

www.mn.gov/commerce/consumers/your-home/energy-info/home-energy-guide/