

# ENERGY STAR®

## A Powerful Sales Tool for Home Manufacturers

Energy Star® the symbol for energy efficiency is promoted and backed by two federal agencies — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy. The Energy Star® and accompanying Quality Assured Label™ appear on homes built in factories that meet EPA technical and quality control requirements. The labels identify energy efficient homes and buildings across the United States.

“The voluntary Energy Star® program is recognized nationwide,” reports Dick Reinhard, PE, and PFS Manager of Manufactured Housing Operations. “We’re seeing a growing number of home manufacturers seizing the opportunity to qualify for this powerful sales tool.”

Energy Star® procedures were refined and updated as of November 2005. Following are highlights of those updates; however, manufacturers would be well-advised to review more complete information on the web at: [www.energystar.gov/homes](http://www.energystar.gov/homes) and [www.mhrahome.org](http://www.mhrahome.org).

### MHRA—Quality Assurance Provider

Under the updated procedures, an EPA-approved Quality Assurance Provider (QAP) has responsibility to oversee plant certification by Energy Star Certifiers, and to spot-check Energy Star-labeled homes in the field. The Manufactured Home Research Alliance (MHRA) has been approved by the EPA to function as Quality Assurance Provider in most of the United States. In Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, the EPA-approved QAP is the Northwest Energy Efficiency Manufactured Home Program (NEEM).

### Energy Star Certifiers

Manufacturers must maintain the services of an independent third-party Energy Star Certifier listed with the QAP. The list of MHRA Energy Star Certifiers is available on the web at [www.mhrahome.org](http://www.mhrahome.org).

*Information on PFS Corporation Energy Star certification services may be obtained by calling Dick Reinhard at 608.224.5528 or email [dreinhard@pfscorporation.com](mailto:dreinhard@pfscorporation.com), or contacting Karl Heilig at [kheilig@pfscorporation.com](mailto:kheilig@pfscorporation.com). PFS has two qualified Energy Star inspectors and additional PFS inspectors are being trained to provide this service.*

### Plant Certification

To be certified, a plant must produce three **consecutive** homes that are built to meet duct system requirements — using the revised duct system design that is designated for the plant’s Energy Star Production.

Other elements of the manufacturer's Energy Star-specific third-party-approved design package include building thermal envelope, specific duct arrangement, space heating and cooling equipment efficiency and hot water heater efficiency.



*Dick Reinhard conducts energy efficiency tests in an Energy Star home.*

## **Field Evaluation**

Once homes are installed on site, the Energy Star Certifier tests three homes in the field that were manufactured by the plant to determine duct and whole-house air leakage. The duct and whole-house air leakage must be equal to or lower than the Energy Star requirements. If the home fails, modifications are made and the home is retested until it passes.

For the plant to maintain certification, the Energy Star Certifier inspects 2% of Energy Star homes sold by the plant each year, or a minimum of one (1) home per calendar year, whichever is greater.

## **Two labels are required**

Each Energy Star qualified home must display two labels — the blue Energy Star Qualified Home label and a gray Quality Assurance Provider label (shown below).



***A complete guide to Design, Manufacturing, Installation, and Certification Procedures for Energy Star® Qualified Manufactured Homes is available on the web at [www.mhrahome.org](http://www.mhrahome.org). The guide provides specifics on the responsibilities of the plant quality control department, data keeping, labeling and reporting functions.***

*By Kathleen Blair*