



NCC 2022 NatHERS Software updates

6 January 2023

The transition period for the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022 energy efficiency changes has commenced and will end on 1 October 2023*. Check with your local building authority for advice on transition requirements.

The NCC changes will require updates to all NatHERS accredited software tools. The NatHERS Administrator has begun a process to re-accredit the software tools.

But you don't need to wait for the tools to be formally accredited to see the benefits of updates and new inclusions. You can test designs right now, and through the NCC 2022 transition period, while tools become accredited.

There are endorsed beta tools to show the effects of new climate files and starbands and AccuRate Home and pilot tools with appliance modules to help you become familiar with undertaking Whole of Home assessments.

Regular updates will be provided via [the NatHERS website](#).

AccuRate Home (benchmark software tool)

AccuRate Home will replace AccuRate Sustainability and includes new features and data sets to align with the NCC 2022 changes. This software will be accredited early in 2023. In the interim, keep using Accurate Sustainability for regulatory purposes.

Test the NatHERS thermal (building shell) performance changes

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**. Beta versions are not yet fully accredited and cannot be used for regulatory purposes, but results from testing will be indicative of the ratings generated by fully accredited software.

FirstRate5 and **AccuRate Home** also include the updated heating and cooling load limits. 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**'.

At the time of this update, 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.

*For the majority of jurisdictions.



NCC 2022 NatHERS Software updates

6 January 2023

Learn more about Whole of Home assessments (including major fixtures* and appliances)

NatHERS has been expanded to include a new Whole of Home assessment and rating requirement to support the updated NCC 2022 residential energy efficiency provisions. To assist you to better understand and apply the Whole of Home requirements, three tools are now available:

- CSIRO's **AccuRate Home** (both the beta version and soon to be accredited version) tool which is also the benchmark tool for all other tools seeking Whole of Home NatHERS accreditation.
- 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. The following are available now:

- **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.