



NCC 2022 NatHERS Software updates

May 2023

The energy efficiency requirements for new homes are changing in the **National Construction Code (NCC) 2022**. These changes include:

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

NatHERS tools are being **updated and re-accredited** to support these changes.

[Click here to read more about when and how each state and territory plan to implement the new NCC 2022 requirements.](#)

Benchmark tool

AccuRate Home is fully 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 also still available for use with NCC 2019*.

Commercial tools

Thermal assessments

Firstrate5 is now conditionally accredited for NatHERS thermal assessments. This means it can be used for regulatory purposes for thermal (building shell) assessments.

HERO and **BERS Pro** have beta versions for NatHERS thermal assessments so users can test the effects of the new climate files and updated starbands. Both software tools will be conditionally accredited for thermal assessments soon. Until this time, results from testing with beta tools will be indicative of actual ratings but cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

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

For beta tools that do not include thermal bridging changes, see the **Thermal Bridging Report** for the expected impacts on star ratings for homes in different locations.

**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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Whole of Home assessments

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 regulatory assessments. In the meantime, you can use the benchmark tool (AccuRate Home) or 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, nor a 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 tools for thermal assessments 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/accredited-software

