



Meeting the energy efficiency requirements in the BCA 2012 using a National House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) software tool

There are various compliance options to meet the BCA 2012 energy efficiency requirements. This document highlights the option of using house energy rating software to demonstrate compliance with P2.6.1 for the thermal performance of the building.

House energy rating software means software accredited under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS).

In completing a certificate of design compliance, a registered building surveyor is likely to rely on technical certificates/documents from various technical experts, which can include an energy efficiency rating from a NatHERS accredited assessor.

It is important for registered building surveyors to have confidence in the energy efficiency rating, as they are responsible under the *Building Act 2011* for ensuring that buildings meet the minimum energy efficiency requirements in the BCA.

NatHERS Accredited Software

In December 2011, a Building Commission Advisory Note (AN19) was published to advise which versions of the NatHERS accredited software were recommended for use in Western Australia for regulatory purposes. Please note that AccuRate Sustainability is now the only version of AccuRate accredited software for use in Western Australia, as Accurate V1.1.4.1 is no longer supported. The table below lists the current acceptable software tools for Western Australia.

Software Tool	Version	Date Accreditation Attained
AccuRate Sustainability	V2.0.2.13	Accredited March 2011
BERS pro	V4.2 110811	Accredited August 2011
FirstRate 5	V5.1.7	Accredited September 2011

NatHERS Protocol for Assessor Accrediting Organisations (AAO)

NatHERS has developed a protocol to provide a national framework for the approval and operation of organisations that accredit users of NatHERS software for regulatory purposes. This is a key component in ensuring that assessors provide consistent and reliable outcomes through the correct use of NatHERS software and that they are adequately trained.

NatHERS Accredited Assessors in Western Australia

In Western Australia, the Public Utilities Office (formerly the Office of Energy) administers the implementation of NatHERS software tools and an accreditation system for NatHERS assessors.

The Public Utilities Office has a current service level agreement with the following AAO to accredit NatHERS Assessors in Western Australia:

- Association of Building Sustainability Assessors (ABSA) www.absa.net.au

This agreement ensures that accredited assessors are subject to quality control and a code of conduct. It ensures that the NatHERS software is used with regard to a range of updates and protocols, including protocols which are stipulated by the Public Utilities Office. These include, but are not limited to, clarification on software data entry protocols and post code vs. climate zone updates.

The Building Commission and the Public Utilities Office recommend the use of Western Australian accredited NatHERS assessors to undertake all NatHERS ratings.

When using Western Australian accredited NatHERS assessors, registered building surveyors, building designers, architects, builders and the community can have confidence that assessments are being completed by suitably qualified industry professionals.

To locate an accredited assessor visit www.absa.net.au.

NOTE: A 6 star NatHERS rating alone does not meet all the energy efficiency requirements in the BCA. For further information please see the Building Commission's Advisory Note AN22.

Reference to the BCA in this Industry bulletin means Volume One and/or Two of the National Construction Code series

27 September 2012

Building Commission | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
Level 1, 303 Sevenoaks Street, Cannington WA 6107
P: Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square WA 6850
T: 1300 489 099 | F: 08 6251 1501
E: BCinfo@dmirs.wa.gov.au
W: www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/building-commission

**Building
Commission**