

Amplification of Notice 2006-28 Energy Efficient Home Credit; Manufactured Homes

Notice 2008-36

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

This notice clarifies and supersedes Notice 2006-28, 2006-1 C.B. 628, as updated by Announcement 2006-88, 2006-2 C.B. 910. Notice 2006-28, as updated, provided guidance regarding the calculation of heating and cooling energy consumption for purposes of determining the eligibility of a manufactured home for the New Energy Efficient Home Credit under Internal Revenue Code § 45L. Notice 2006-28 also provided guidance relating to the public list of software programs that may be used to calculate energy consumption. Guidance relating to dwelling units other than manufactured homes is provided in Notice 2008-35.

This notice supersedes Notice 2006-28 by substantially republishing the guidance contained in that publication. This notice clarifies the meaning of the terms equivalent rating network and eligible contractor, and permits calculation procedures other than those identified in Notice 2006-28 to be used to calculate energy consumption. Finally, this notice clarifies the process for removing software from the list of approved software and reflects the extension of the tax credit through December 31, 2008.

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND

.01 *In General.* Section 45L provides a credit to an eligible contractor who constructs a qualified energy efficient home. For qualified energy efficient homes that are manufactured homes, the amount of the credit is \$1,000 or \$2,000, depending on the energy savings that are achieved. A manufactured home qualifies for the credit if:

- (1) It is located in the United States;
- (2) Its construction is substantially completed after August 8, 2005;

(3) It meets the energy saving requirements of § 45L(c)(2) or (3); and

(4) It is acquired, directly or indirectly, from the eligible contractor after December 31, 2005, and before January 1, 2009, for use as a residence.

.02 *Energy Saving Requirements.* To meet the energy saving requirements of § 45L(c)(2) or (3), a manufactured home must meet one of the following standards:

(1) To meet the energy saving requirements of § 45L(c)(2) and qualify for the \$2,000 credit, a manufactured home must be certified to provide a level of heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 50 percent below that of a reference dwelling unit constructed in accordance with the standards of § 404 of the 2004 Supplement to the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code (2004 IECC Supplement), and to have building envelope component improvements that provide for a level of heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 10 percent below that of a reference dwelling unit (see section 3 of this notice).

(2) To meet the energy saving requirements of § 45L(c)(3) and qualify for the \$1,000 credit, a manufactured home must either—

(a) be certified to provide a level of heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 30 percent below that of a reference dwelling unit constructed in accordance with the standards of § 404 of the 2004 IECC Supplement, and to have building envelope component improvements that provide for a level of heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 10 percent below that of a reference dwelling unit; or

(b) meet the current requirements established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the ENERGY STAR® Labeled Homes Program in effect on the date construction is substantially completed (see section 4 of this notice).

.03 *Calculation Procedures.* For purposes of section 2.02 of this notice, heating and cooling energy consumption must be calculated in accordance with the procedures prescribed in Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Publication No. 05-001 (Nov. 17, 2005) or No. 06-001 (June 1, 2006) or in accordance with an equivalent calculation procedure.

.04 *Acquired from Eligible Contractor.* A qualified energy efficient manufactured home is acquired directly from an eligible contractor for use as a residence if the person that produced the manufactured home sells or leases the manufactured home to another person for use as a residence. A qualified energy efficient manufactured home is acquired indirectly from an eligible contractor for use as a residence if the person that produced the manufactured home sells the manufactured home to an intermediary and the intermediary (or the last of multiple intermediaries) sells or leases the manufactured home to another person for use as a residence. A qualified energy efficient manufactured home is not acquired from an eligible contractor if the person that produced the manufactured home retains the manufactured home for use as a residence. For example, a qualified energy efficient manufactured home is acquired from an eligible contractor in the following situations:

(1) A person produces a qualified energy efficient manufactured home and then sells the manufactured home to the homeowner.

(2) A person produces a qualified energy efficient manufactured home and then leases the manufactured home to the lessee or tenant.

(3) A person hires a third party contractor to produce a qualified energy efficient manufactured home and then sells the manufactured home to the homeowner. (See section 5.01(5) of this notice for guidance regarding the person treated as the eligible contractor in this case.)

(4) A person that produces a manufactured home sells the home to a dealer of manufactured homes and the dealer sells the manufactured home to another person for use as a residence. (See section 7.01 of this notice for a rule permitting an eligible contractor to rely on a dealer's statement concerning a sale by the dealer.)

SECTION 3. REQUIREMENTS TO CLAIM THE \$2,000 CREDIT

An eligible contractor must obtain the certification required under § 45L(c)(2) with respect to a manufactured home from an eligible certifier before claiming the \$2,000 energy efficient home credit with respect to the manufactured home. An eligible contractor is not required to file the

certification with the return on which the credit is claimed. However, § 1.6001-1(a) of the Income Tax Regulations requires that taxpayers maintain such books and records as are sufficient to establish the entitlement to, and amount of, any credit claimed by the taxpayer. Accordingly, an eligible contractor claiming a \$2,000 credit under § 45L should retain the certification as part of the eligible contractor's records to satisfy this requirement. The certification will be treated as satisfying the requirements of § 45L(c)(2) if all construction has been performed in a manner consistent with the design specifications provided to the eligible certifier and the certification contains all of the following:

.01 The name, address, and telephone number of the eligible certifier.

.02 The manufactured home's serial or other identification number.

.03 A statement by the eligible certifier that—

(1) The manufactured home has a projected level of annual heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 50 percent below the annual level of heating and cooling energy consumption of a reference dwelling unit in the same climate zone;

(2) Building envelope component improvements alone account for a level of annual heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 10 percent below the annual level of heating and cooling energy consumption of a reference dwelling unit in the same climate zone; and

(3) Heating and cooling energy consumption have been calculated in the manner prescribed in section 2.03 of this notice.

.04 A statement by the eligible certifier that inspections of the manufactured home (or of other manufactured homes under the sampling protocol described below) performed by the eligible certifier after installation on the permanent site have confirmed that such heating and cooling energy consumption complies with the design specifications provided to the eligible certifier. With respect to manufacturers that produce at least 85 homes during a twelve-month period, the eligible certifier may use the sampling protocol found in the current standards of the ENERGY STAR® Qualified Manufactured Homes — Design, Manufacturing, Installation, and Certification Procedures, located at the following web address: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.pt_builder_manufactured.

[energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.pt_builder_manufactured](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.pt_builder_manufactured).

.05 A list identifying—

(1) The manufactured home's energy efficient building envelope components and their respective energy performance rating as required by § 401.3 of the 2004 IECC Supplement; and

(2) The energy efficient heating and cooling equipment installed in the manufactured home and the energy efficiency performance of such equipment as rated under applicable Department of Energy Appliance Standards test procedures.

.06 Identification of the listed software program used to calculate energy consumption (see section 6 of this notice).

.07 A declaration, applicable to the certification and any accompanying documents, signed by a person currently authorized to bind the eligible certifier in these matters, in the following form:

"Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this certification, including accompanying documents, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts presented in support of this certification are true, correct, and complete."

SECTION 4. REQUIREMENTS TO CLAIM THE \$1,000 CREDIT

.01 *Certified Homes.* Except as provided in section 4.02 of this notice, an eligible contractor must obtain the certification required under § 45L(c)(3)(A) with respect to a manufactured home from an eligible certifier before claiming the \$1,000 energy efficient home credit with respect to the manufactured home. An eligible contractor is not required to attach the certification to the return on which the credit is claimed. However, § 1.6001-1(a) requires that taxpayers maintain such books and records as are sufficient to establish the entitlement to, and amount of, any credit claimed by the taxpayer. Accordingly, an eligible contractor claiming a \$1,000 credit under § 45L should retain the certification as part of the eligible contractor's records to satisfy this requirement. The certification will be treated as satisfying the requirements of § 45L(c)(3)(A) if all construction has been performed in a manner consistent with the design specifications provided to the eligible certifier and the certification contains all of the following:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the eligible certifier.

(2) The manufactured home's serial or other identification number.

(3) A statement by the eligible certifier that—

(a) The manufactured home has a projected level of annual heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 30 percent below the annual level of heating and cooling energy consumption of a reference dwelling unit in the same climate zone;

(b) Building envelope component improvements alone account for a level of annual heating and cooling energy consumption that is at least 10 percent below the annual level of heating and cooling energy consumption of a reference dwelling unit in the same climate zone; and

(c) Heating and cooling energy consumption have been calculated in the manner prescribed in section 2.03 of this notice.

(4) A statement by the eligible certifier that field inspections of the manufactured home (or of other manufactured homes under the sampling protocol described below) performed by the eligible certifier after installation on the permanent site have confirmed that such heating and cooling energy consumption complies with the design specifications provided to the eligible certifier. With respect to manufacturers that produce at least 85 homes during a twelve-month period, the certifier may use the sampling protocol found in the current standards of the current ENERGY STAR® Qualified Manufactured Homes: Guide for Retailers, located at the following web address: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=bldrs_lenders_raters.pt_builder_manufactured.

(5) A list identifying—

(a) The manufactured home's energy efficient building envelope components and their respective energy performance rating as required by § 401.3 of the 2004 IECC Supplement; and

(b) The energy efficient heating and cooling equipment installed in the manufactured home and the energy efficiency performance of such equipment as rated under applicable Department of Energy Appliance Standards test procedures.

(6) Identification of the listed software program used to calculate energy consumption (see section 6 of this notice).

(7) A declaration, applicable to the certification and any accompanying documents, signed by a person currently authorized to bind the eligible certifier in these matters, in the following form:

“Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this certification, including accompanying documents, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts presented in support of this certification are true, correct, and complete.”

.02 *Energy Star Homes*. An eligible contractor may claim the \$1,000 energy efficient home credit with respect to a manufactured home by meeting the applicable certification requirements established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the ENERGY STAR® Labeled Homes Program in effect on the date construction is substantially completed.

SECTION 5. DEFINITIONS

.01 The following definitions apply for purposes of this notice:

(1) Building envelope components are basement walls, exterior walls, floor, roof, and any other building element that encloses conditioned space, including any boundary between conditioned space and unconditioned space.

(2) A climate zone is a geographical area within which all locations have similar long-term climate conditions as defined in Chapter 3 of the 2004 IECC Supplement.

(3) A dwelling unit is a single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation, within a building that is not more than three stories above grade in height.

(4) An eligible certifier is a person that is not related (within the meaning of § 45(e)(4)) to the eligible contractor and has been accredited or otherwise authorized by RESNET (or an equivalent rating network) to use energy performance measurement methods approved by RESNET (or the equivalent rating network). An employee or other representative of a utility or local building regulatory authority qualifies as an eligible certifier if the employee or representative has been accredited or otherwise authorized by RESNET (or an

equivalent rating network) to use the approved energy performance measurement methods.

(5) An eligible contractor, in the case of a qualified energy efficient home that is a manufactured home, is the person that produced the manufactured home. A person must own and have a basis in the qualified energy efficient manufactured home during its production to qualify as an eligible contractor with respect to the manufactured home. For example, in the situation described in section 2.04(3) of this notice, if the person that hires the third party contractor to produce the manufactured home owns and has the basis in the home during its construction, the person that hires the third party contractor is the eligible contractor and the third party contractor is not an eligible contractor.

(6) An equivalent calculation procedure is a procedure that produces results comparable to the results obtained under the procedures prescribed in Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Publication No. 05-001 (Nov. 17, 2005) or No. 06-001 (June 1, 2006).

(7) An equivalent rating network includes, in a state that has established energy efficiency standards under which a dwelling unit is required to achieve a specified aggregate level of heating and cooling energy consumption for any purpose (including compliance with building codes or eligibility for a state grant or tax credit), the state agency administering those standards. Thus, if the agency has accredited or otherwise authorized a person to use energy performance measurement methods approved by the agency for use in determining whether the state's energy efficiency standards are satisfied, the person so accredited or authorized qualifies as an eligible certifier.

(8) A manufactured home is a dwelling unit constructed in accordance with the Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (24 C.F.R. 3280).

(9) A qualified energy efficient manufactured home is a dwelling unit that qualifies for the credit under section 45L. See section 2.01 of this notice for the requirements that a dwelling unit must satisfy to qualify for the credit.

(10) A reference dwelling unit is a dwelling unit that is similar in technical specifications and design to the manu-

factured home produced by the eligible contractor except that—

(a) The reference dwelling unit is constructed in accordance with the minimum standards of Chapter 4 of the 2004 IECC Supplement;

(b) The reference dwelling unit's air conditioners have a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 13, measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. 430.23(m); and

(c) The reference dwelling unit's heat pumps have a SEER of 13 and a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 7.7, measured in accordance with 10 C.F.R. 430.23(m).

SECTION 6. SOFTWARE PROGRAMS

.01 *In General*. The Internal Revenue Service will create and maintain a public list of software programs that may be used to calculate energy consumption for purposes of providing certifications under sections 3 and 4 of this notice. This list of approved software may be found at: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/industries/article/0,,id=155445,00.html>.

.02 *Requirements for Software Programs To Be Included on the Internal Revenue Service List*. A software program will be included on the list created by the Internal Revenue Service if the software developer submits the following information to the Service and RESNET:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the software developer;

(2) The name or other identifier of the program as it will appear on the list;

(3) The test results, test runs, and the software program with which the test was conducted; and

(4) A declaration by the developer of the software program, made under penalties of perjury, that the software program—

(i) Has satisfied all tests required to conform to the software accreditation process prescribed in Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Publication No. 05-001 (Nov. 17, 2005) or No. 06-001 (June 1, 2006); or

(ii) Has satisfied all tests necessary to permit a determination that the software program is sufficiently accurate to justify its use in calculating energy consumption for purposes of providing certifications under sections 3 and 4 of this notice.

.03 *Addresses*. Submissions under this section must be addressed as follows:

Submissions to the Service submitted by U.S. mail:

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: Program Administrator
CC:PSI:6, Room 5114
P.O. Box 7604
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

Submissions to the Service submitted by a private delivery service:

Internal Revenue Service
Attn: Program Administrator
CC:PSI:6, Room 5114
1111 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20224

Submissions to RESNET:

Residential Energy Services Network
P.O. Box 4561
Oceanside, CA 92052-4561

.04 *Original and Updated Lists*. A software program was included on the original list if the software developer's submission was received before March 1, 2006. The list will be updated as necessary to reflect additions resulting from submissions received after February 28, 2006, and deletions resulting from removal of software from the list under section 6.05 of this notice.

.05 *Removal from Published List*. The Service may, upon examination (and after appropriate consultation with the Department of Energy), determine that a software program is not sufficiently accurate to justify its use in calculating energy consumption for purposes of providing a certification under sections 3 and 4 of this notice and remove the software program from the published list. The Service may undertake an examination on its own initiative or in response to a public request supported by appropriate analysis of the software program's deficiencies.

.06 *Effect of Removal from Published List*. A software program may not be used to calculate energy consumption for purposes of providing a certification that satisfies the requirements of § 45L after the effective date of removal of the software from the published list. The removal will

not affect the validity of any certification provided with respect to a manufactured home on or before the effective date of removal from the published list. Generally, notice that software is being removed from the published list will be provided at the site specified in section 6.01 of this notice at least sixty (60) days before the effective date of the removal.

.07 *Public Availability of Information*. RESNET may make available for public review any information provided to it under section 6.02 of this notice.

SECTION 7. SALES TO DEALERS

.01 *In General*. In the case of a manufactured home sold by an eligible contractor to a dealer of manufactured homes, the eligible contractor may rely on a statement by the dealer to establish the date on which a manufactured home is acquired, that it is located in the United States, and that it is acquired for use as a residence. An eligible contractor is not required to file the statement with the return on which the credit is claimed. However, § 1.6001-1(a) of the Income Tax Regulations requires that taxpayers maintain such books and records as are sufficient to establish the entitlement to, and amount of, any credit claimed by the taxpayer. Accordingly, an eligible contractor claiming a credit under § 45L should retain the statement as part of its records to satisfy this requirement, and is not entitled to rely on the statement unless the statement is so retained.

.02 *Content of Statement*. The eligible contractor may not rely on the statement by the dealer unless the statement specifies the date of the retail sale of the manufactured home, that the dealer delivered the manufactured home to the purchaser at an address in the United States, and that the dealer has no knowledge of any information suggesting that the purchaser will use the manufactured home other than as a residence. The statement must also contain the following information:

(1) The name, address, and telephone number of the dealer.

(2) A declaration, applicable to the statement made by the dealer and any accompanying documents, signed by a person currently authorized to bind the dealer in such matters, in the following form:

"Under penalties of perjury, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts presented with respect to this sale transaction are true, correct, and complete."

SECTION 8. PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT

The collections of information contained in this notice have been reviewed and approved by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3507) under control number 1545-1994.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number.

The collections of information in this notice are in sections 3, 4, 6, and 7. This information is required to be collected and retained in order to ensure that a manufactured home meets the requirements for the energy efficient home credit under § 45L. This information will be used to determine whether property for which certifications are provided is property that qualifies for the credit. The collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. The likely respondents are corporations, partnerships, and individuals.

The estimated total annual reporting burden is 75 hours.

The estimated annual burden per respondent varies from 3.5 hours to 5 hours, depending on individual circumstances, with an estimated average burden of 4 hours to complete the certification required under this notice. The estimated number of respondents is 15.

The estimated annual frequency of responses is on occasion.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

SECTION 9. EFFECT ON OTHER DOCUMENTS

Notice 2006-28, as updated by Announcement 2006-88, is clarified and

superseded. Announcement 2006–88 is also clarified and superseded.

SECTION 10. EFFECTIVE DATE

This notice applies with respect to certifications provided after February 29, 2008. Taxpayers may apply the provisions of this notice with respect to certifications provided on or before February 29, 2008.

SECTION 11. DRAFTING INFORMATION

The principal author of this notice is Jennifer Bernardini of the Office of Associate Chief Counsel (Passthroughs & Special Industries). For further information regarding this notice, contact Jennifer Bernardini at (202) 622–3110 (not a toll-free call).

Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates

Notice 2008–37

This notice provides guidance as to the corporate bond weighted average interest

rate and the permissible range of interest rates specified under § 412(b)(5)(B)(ii)(II) of the Internal Revenue Code as in effect for plan years beginning before 2008. It also provides guidance on the corporate bond monthly yield curve (and the corresponding spot segment rates), the 24-month average segment rates, and the funding transitional segment rates under § 430(h)(2). In addition, this notice provides guidance as to the interest rate on 30-year Treasury securities under § 417(e)(3)(A)(ii)(II) as in effect for plan years beginning before 2008, and the minimum present value segment rates under § 417(e)(3)(D) as in effect for plan years beginning after 2007.

CORPORATE BOND WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE

Sections 412(b)(5)(B)(ii) and 412(l)(7)(C)(i), as amended by the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 and by the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), provide that the interest rates used to calculate current liability and to determine the required contribution under § 412(l) for plan years beginning 2007 must be within a permissible range based on the weighted

average of the rates of interest on amounts invested conservatively in long term investment grade corporate bonds during the 4-year period ending on the last day before the beginning of the plan year.

Notice 2004–34, 2004–1 C.B. 848, provides guidelines for determining the corporate bond weighted average interest rate and the resulting permissible range of interest rates used to calculate current liability. That notice establishes that the corporate bond weighted average is based on the monthly composite corporate bond rate derived from designated corporate bond indices. The methodology for determining the monthly composite corporate bond rate as set forth in Notice 2004–34 continues to apply in determining that rate. See Notice 2006–75, 2006–2 C.B. 366.

The composite corporate bond rate for February 2008 is 6.36 percent. Pursuant to Notice 2004–34, the Service has determined this rate as the average of the monthly yields for the included corporate bond indices for that month.

The following corporate bond weighted average interest rate was determined for plan years beginning in the month shown below.

For Plan Years Beginning in		Corporate Bond Weighted Average	Permissible Range	
<i>Month</i>	<i>Year</i>		90%	100%
March	2008	5.96	5.36	5.96

YIELD CURVE AND SEGMENT RATES

Generally for plan years beginning after 2007 (except for delayed effective dates for certain plans under sections 104, 105, and 106 of PPA), § 430 of the Code specifies the minimum funding requirements that apply to single employer plans pursuant to § 412. Section 430(h)(2) specifies the interest rates that must be used to determine a plan's target normal cost and funding target. Under this provision, present value is generally determined using three 24-month average interest rates

(“segment rates”), each of which applies to cash flows during specified periods. However, an election may be made under § 430(h)(2)(D)(ii) to use the monthly yield curve in place of the segment rates. For plan years beginning in 2008 and 2009, a transitional rule under § 430(h)(2)(G) provides that the segment rates are blended with the corporate bond weighted average as specified above. An election may be made under § 430(h)(2)(G)(iv) to use the segment rates without applying the transitional rule.

Notice 2007–81, 2007–44 I.R.B. 899, provides guidelines for determining the

monthly corporate bond yield curve, the 24-month average corporate bond segment rates, and the funding transitional segment rates used to compute the target normal cost and the funding target. Pursuant to Notice 2007–81, the monthly corporate bond yield curve derived from February 2008 data is in Table I at the end of this notice. The spot first, second, and third segment rates for the month of February 2008 are, respectively, 4.11, 6.18, and 7.05. The three 24-month average corporate bond segment rates applicable for March 2008 under the election of § 430(h)(2)(G)(iv) are as follows:

First Segment	Second Segment	Third Segment
5.24	5.97	6.49