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IBS ADVISORS
INTEGRATED BUILDING SCIENCE

June 7, 2010

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Texas adopts the 2009 Energy Code

Brett,

The State of Texas has adopted the energy provisions found in Chapter 11 of the 2009 International Residential Code for single family homes effective January 1, 2012. Multifamily, commercial and industrial construction will have to comply effective April 1, 2011.

This code has a mandatory thermal bypass inspection (extremely similar to the ENERGY STAR(R) program), mandatory duct testing if the ducts are outside conditioned space, and mandatory blower door testing if they did not do the thermal bypass inspection. The person doing the inspection has to be independent of the insulation installer.

Texas joins California, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Utah, Washington and West Virginia in adopting the 2009 IRC. Meanwhile, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, and Pennsylvania have adopted the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, essentially Chapter 11 of the 2009 IRC. All States that accepted ARRA stimulus funding are on the clock to adopt the 2009 energy efficiency codes as a condition of funding.

The one group that is already trained to do this are HERS Raters. To become a certified HERS Rater, check out our next training course coming up in Midland, Texas June 16-18 & 23-25.

This course will prepare candidates to take the RESNET National Core Competency Exam and covers subject matter ranging from

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Home Star Update!

Senator Bingaman has introduced the Senate version of the Home Star legislation. It creates a Home Star loan program, reinforces RESNET accredited organizations as quality assurance providers and pre- and post-work auditors, and ties rebates to a HERS Index of 100 for homes built prior to January 1, 2000.

What our students say:

building science to business operations. We use innovative training techniques to create the highest level of knowledge transfer for our students, resulting in a much higher than average pass rate on the National Exam. The course is delivered during 6 days over a two week period and includes both lecture and field instruction. A background in construction, engineering or inspections is highly recommended.

The least expensive way to become a great Rater is to be trained by a great Trainer! The last 3 classes we've taught had 100% of the students pass the National Exam.

Cost: \$1,495.00

[Home Energy Rater Course](#)

Ethics

It turns out that anytime there is a huge amount of consumer interest and government funding involved, unethical business practices flare up.

Recently I had a neighbor that got ripped off by a company that uses classic bait-and-switch techniques. The Federal Trade Commission is already looking into "green" claims made by manufacturers and has already placed itself in a position to levy fines of up to \$11,000 per occurrence of false claims in the insulation industry (including radiant barriers). Check out [my blog](#) for more information on that.

I presented on ethics at the RESNET Conference in Raleigh, NC, earlier this year and posted that [presentation](#) on our website. In it, I covered the highlights of a module we teach in our HERS Rater course.

In it, I cover the distinction between ethics and morals, illustrate a critical thinking path for decision making, discuss the causes of ethical failures and some fascinating psychological processes that we employ when we engage in unethical behavior, and discussed how we could reinforce ethical behavior.

"Brett was the most knowledgeable instructor I have had the pleasure of learning from. I mentioned to him that I have learned more in 6 days than I have in the 8 month Professional Inspector course I attended at S.A.C. His dedication and energy for his students inspires me to learn all I can about this profession. Hang in there Brett and keep up the excellent training, this industry needs more instructors like Brett ,Thank you for all your hard work."
-Anthony C.

"Brett is a great subject matter expert. Keeps trainees engaged and on task. Careful consideration of material and presentation by instructor is evident." - Chris F.

Builders Tax

As HomeStar legislation nears approval, it is important that we keep our eyes on our industry- because the government certainly will.

RESNET News

The United Nations has established the Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (SBCI) to incorporate building energy efficiency into the new international climate treaty. The U.S. representatives to this Initiative are RESNET, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the U.S. Green Building Council.

To help with that effort, they also created a Sustainable Buildings Index Steering Committee. RESNET's Executive Director, Steve Baden, has been elected Vice Chair of that committee and former President of the Board, Philip Fairey, was elected to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee.

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Credit

The legislation extending the builder's tax credit for building energy efficient homes to December 31, 2010 was passed by the House and now goes through a reconciliation process with the Senate, then on to the President to sign.

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