



## Modification of the December 2021 Temporary Waiver to Use Non-ENERGY STAR Certified Refrigerators September 2023

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) builder partners have continued to face ongoing supply chain challenges which began to emerge with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These supply chain challenges can increase costs and cause significant delays in constructing and delivering Zero Energy Ready Homes.

The availability of ENERGY STAR Certified refrigerators, which are required by the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Version 1 program, has continued to be a common supply chain challenge for builders. To assist ZERH builder partners with this issue, the DOE ZERH program is temporarily offering the following waiver.

On a temporary basis, the DOE ZERH Version 1 program requirement to use ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators may be waived if each of the following criteria are met:

- All other applicable DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Version 1 program requirements for the home are met
- The required DOE ZERH Version 1 Target Energy Rating Index (ERI) score is still met by the home, when the home's energy model reflects the use of the non-ENERGY STAR Certified refrigerator

This policy is in effect for homes with completion dates from January 1, 2020 to January 1, 2026.

Finally, this policy aligns with the DOE Zero Energy Ready Home Single Family Homes Version 2 National Program Requirements.