



Robert Hinkle
Building Official
224 Pine Ave
Live Oak, FL 32060
Email:
roberth@suwcountyfl.gov
Office: 386-688-3512

NOTICE

Blower Door Testing and Mechanical Ventilation (Required for permits submitted July 1, 2017 and after)

The 2016 Supplements to the Fifth Edition of the Florida Building Code-Energy Conservation (FBC-EC) R101.4.9 requires blower door testing for all residential dwelling units. This would include single family houses, town houses, duplexes, and each condominium and apartment unit where the building is three stories or less. The 2016 Supplements to the FBC 1203.1 and FBC-EC R402.4.1.2 require that the blower door test have a result not exceeding seven (7) air changes per hour (ACH), and the FBC-Residential R303.4 requires that if less than three (3) air changes per hour (AHU), then mechanical ventilation is required in all the above referenced dwelling units in Climate Zones 1 & 2. Suwannee County is located in Climate Zone 2. The purpose of this notice is to provide direction on who can perform the testing, what needs to be submitted to the Building Department, and when it needs to be submitted.

Plan Review

How you will be achieving mechanical ventilation must now be shown on one of the mechanical drawings. Please provide a clear, distinctive note so the plan reviewer doesn't have to hunt or guess at your intent, and possibly reject your submittal. It is not our intent to scrutinize your design, just to ensure you are providing mechanical ventilation.

The plans will now be required to show the volume of the dwelling unit. This is the thermal envelope volume, and would not include any unconditioned space.

Who can perform the blower door test?

Suwannee County requires the tester to hold a certification as a Blower Door Tester from an organization that is approved by the Building Official. Any person desiring to be approved must submit their Blower Door Tester certification to the Building Official including a copy of their liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance or exemption and a copy of their business tax receipt. There are several certifications/licensures that will be accepted. The list shown is not conclusive. This being said, individuals with the following certifications/licensures will be approved:

- RESNET approved HERS raters and HESP evaluators
- BPI approved Building Analyst
- Florida licensed Mechanical contractors, Class A & Class B Air Conditioning contractors
- Florida licensed Professional engineers

Again, I am sure there are other certifications/licensures that will be approved. If you wish to be approved, please email your qualifications with the **Blower Door Tester Application** to patrickt@suwgov.org. Once approved we will email you a **Blower Door Tester (BDT) number** to be used when completing the blower door test form. Please note, the BDT number is issued to an individual, not a company except if you are a Florida Licensed Mechanical or Class A or B Air Conditioning Contractor. The person with that BDT number is the one that must perform the test. If a company has more than one person that will be performing tests, all of those performing tests must be registered. We will try to make the registration process as quick and painless as possible.

What needs to be Submitted and When

The attached Blower Door Test Form (BDTF) is to be completed by the approved tester. The BDTF is to be provided to the Building Department before scheduling a final inspection.



Robert Hinkle
Building Official
224 Pine Ave
Live Oak, FL 32060
Email:
roberth@suwcountyfl.gov
Office: 386-688-3512

BLOWER DOOR TEST FORM
For Prescriptive and Performance Method

Permit #: _____
BDT#: _____

Date Completed: _____

Builder: _____
Owner: _____
Sec: ____ Twp: ____ Range: ____ Parcel #: _____
Job Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Air Infiltration Test Results

CFM (50) = _____

Volume = _____

ACH (50) = $CFM (50) \times 60 / Volume =$ _____

Pass Fail

Passing Results must be 5 ACH (50) or less

Certification of Test Results

I hereby certify that the above Air Infiltration Test results demonstrate compliance with the Florida Energy Code requirements in accordance with the Florida Building Code-Energy Conservation R402.4.1.2, 5th Edition (2014).

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Company: _____

BDT Registration #: _____

Date: _____