

# Iowa Amendments to the 2012 IECC

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**Amendment 1: This amendment relaxes the air leakage requirement from 3 ACH50 to 4 ACH50.**

**R402.4.1.2 Testing.** The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and ~~3~~ 4 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3-8. Testing shall be conducted with a blower door at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Where required by a code official, testing shall be conducted by an approved third party. A written report of the results of the test shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the code official. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope.

During testing:

1. Exterior window and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weatherstripping or other infiltration control measures;
  2. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup-air backdraft and flue dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures;
  3. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open;
  4. Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed;
  5. Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off; and
  6. Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.
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**Amendment 2: This amendment makes three changes to the duct leakage requirement:**

**R403.2.2 Sealing (Mandatory).** Ducts, air handlers, and filter boxes shall be sealed. Joints and seams shall comply with either the *International Mechanical Code* or *International Residential Code*, as applicable.

**Exceptions:**

1. Air-impermeable spray foam products shall be permitted to be applied without additional joint seals.
2. Where a duct connection is made that is partially inaccessible, three screws or rivets shall be equally spaced on the exposed portion of the joint so as to prevent a hinge effect.
3. Continuously welded and locking-type longitudinal joints and seams in ducts operating at static pressures less than 2 inches of water column (500Pa) pressure classification shall not require additional closure systems.

Duct tightness shall be verified by either of the following:

1. Rough-in test: Total leakage shall be less than or equal to ~~4.6 cfm (113.3~~ 170 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches w.g. (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test. If the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, total leakage shall be less than or equal to 3 cfm (85 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area.
2. Postconstruction test: Leakage to outdoors shall be less than or equal to 4 cfm (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area or

¶total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4.6 cfm (170 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area when tested at a pressure differential of 0.1 inches w.g. (25 Pa) across the entire system, including the manufacturer's air handler enclosure. All register boots shall be taped or otherwise sealed during the test.

Testing shall be conducted by an approved third party. A written report of the results shall be signed by the party conducting the test and provided to the code official.

**Exception:** The ~~total~~ duct leakage test is not required for ducts and air handlers located entirely within the building thermal envelope unless cavities are used for returns.

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**Amendment 3: This amendment clarifies three issues related to the use of cavities as returns:**

**R403.2.3 Building Cavities (Mandatory).** Building framing cavities shall not be used as supply ducts or plenums. Building framing cavities may be used as return ducts if both of the following conditions exist:

1. Ducts must be tested for duct leakage in accordance with section R403.2.2.
  2. Exterior wall cavities shall not be used for return ducts.
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**Amendment 4: This amendment adds a cavity-only insulation option to the above grade wall insulation in climate zone 6 (a cavity-only option already exists in climate zone 5)**

**R402.1.1 Insulation and fenestration criteria.** The building thermal envelope shall meet the requirements of Table R402.1.1. based on the climate zone specified in Chapter 3.

**TABLE R402.1.1  
Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component**

Climate Zone	Fenestration U-Factor	Skylight U-Factor	Glazed Fenestration SHGC	Ceiling R-Value	Wood Frame Wall R-Value	Mass Wall R-Value	Floor R-Value	Basement Wall R-Value	Slab R-Value & Depth	Crawl Space Wall R-Value
5 and Marine 4	0.32	0.55	NR	49	20 or 13+5	13/17	30	15/19	10, 2ft	15/19
6	0.32	0.55	NR	49	<del>20.5 or 13+10</del> 20 or 13+5	15/20	30	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19