RESNET
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY SERVICES NETWORK

Setting the **Standards** for
Home Energy Efficiency

Interpretation: Settings of Hatches &Access Panels to Sealed Spaces for LTO Testing

Designation: IR 380-2019-008, 380-2022-001 & 380-2025-006

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Request from:

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Reference:

Standard ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2019
ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2022
ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2025
Page Number(s):
Sections(s): 5.4.2.1
Table(s): _____
Relating to: _____

Background Statement:

This test procedure section specifically references “interior doors” but does not state the required position for similar openings such as hatches/access panels that connect to Infiltration Volume spaces where ducts may be located, such as sealed attics or crawlspaces.

It would be preferable for clarity that future versions of the Standard indicate that hatches/access panels between the main body of the home and Infiltration Volume where ducts may be located should be open for LTO testing. For now, an interpretation of the Standard’s intent is needed to provide clarity for Raters?

Proposed Interpretation:

Where Standard 380-2019 section 5.4.2.1. refers to “Interior doors shall be open”, the intent is that operable opening closures such as hatches/access panels are included in the requirement.

SDC Response:

Is the proposed interpretation correct? ___X__ Yes _____ No

SDC Comments:

The purpose of the last sentence in Section 5.4.2.1 is to minimize pressure differentials within the infiltration volume. For example, a door between a bedroom and the hallway should be opened. As another example, if the attic is within the infiltration volume, then an attic access door between the main dwelling and the attic should be opened.

While the language is overly precise in its use of the word “door”, the intent is to open any vents, access panels, doors, or other movable partitions that separate spaces within the Infiltration Volume.

The committee thanks you for raising this ambiguity. This intent will be clarified in future editions of the standard.