

# GEW78-14

## 605.1.2.2

**Proponent:** Maureen Traxler, City of Seattle, WA, representing Washington Assn of Building Officials Technical Code Development Committee (maureen.traxler@seattle.gov)

### Revise as follows:

**605.1.2.2 Testing requirement.** ~~The building thermal envelope air tightness shall be considered to be acceptable where the tested and the air leakage rate of the total area of the building thermal envelope is less than shall not exceed~~ 0.25 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> under a pressure differential of 0.3 in water column (1.57 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>) (1.25 L/s.m<sup>2</sup> under a pressure differential of 75 Pa). Testing shall occur after rough-in and after installation of penetrations of the building envelope, including penetrations for utilities, heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems, plumbing, and electrical equipment and appliances. Testing shall be done in accordance with ASTM E 779. A report that includes the tested surface area, floor area, air by volume, stories above grade, and leakage rates shall be submitted to the code official and the building owner. Where the tested rate exceeds 0.25 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup>, a visual inspection of the air barrier shall be conducted and any leaks noted shall be sealed to the extent practicable. An additional report identifying the corrective actions taken to seal leaks shall be submitted to the code official and the building owner, and shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this section.

**Reason:** This proposal allows a compliance option for buildings that fail to meet the air leakage test. The current code requires all buildings to have no more than 0.25 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> of leakage through the envelope. While most buildings will pass the test, certain types of buildings present difficulties because of air volume or other causes. This proposal allows them to comply with the code by correcting deficiencies "to the extent practicable".

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction.

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