## The Code Council partners with ACCA and RESNET to develop new standard for grading HVAC system installations

*The new standard is a collaborative effort of the three organizations to recognize and reward quality residential HVAC design and installations*

**Washington, D.C.** – The International Code Council has partnered with the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) and the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) to develop the *ANSI/RESNET/ACCA/ICC 310-2020 Standard for Grading the Installation of HVAC Systems*. The new standard is the product of a collaborative effort of the three organizations that establishes the procedures, tolerances, and record keeping practices for evaluating and grading elements of an HVAC system's design and installation.

The standard provides a pathway to earn an improved Energy Rating Index (ERI) score when the heating and cooling system is installed in compliance with its published requirements. The Standard applies to Unitary HVAC systems and is comprised of five tasks: a design review, a total duct leakage test, a Blower Fan volumetric airflow test, a Blower Fan watt draw test, and a noninvasive evaluation of refrigerant charge. Designed to be completed in sequence, the results of each task are evaluated for compliance with specified thresholds including design tolerances and installation quality.

"We are pleased to continue our strong partnership with RESNET and ACCA to develop such an important standard," said Code Council Executive Vice President Mark Johnson. "We intend for this standard to support consistency in rating and labeling by home energy raters, energy auditors or HVAC contractors."

"ACCA is proud to have been part of this initiative to launch this effort," said ACCA president and Chief Executive Officer Barton James. "Our participation on the development committee included; Rob Minnick, ACCA board member; Brian Mount, ACCA member, and Wes Davis, ACCA director of technical services. We welcome this important standard and look forward to promoting its use. It is a great step forward and demonstrates the importance of quality installation to an HVAC system's efficiency, performance, and comfort."

"RESNET is proud to collaborate with ICC and ACCA in producing the new ANSI standard," said RESNET Executive Director Steven Baden. "The new standard will result in lower HERS Index Scores for builders that have a certified HERS Rater rate the performance of the HVAC system."

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that up to 30 percent of an HVAC system's efficiency can be lost if it is improperly designed and installed. In 2014, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) published a report on the impact design and installation faults had on system efficiency. After further investigation into how the information could be reflected in the ERI and Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index score, RESNET, ACCA, and the Code Council partnered to publish the *ANSI/RESNET/ACCA/ICC 310-2020.*

The standard is currently focused on the cooling system; therefore, homes in heat dominated climates will benefit most from improved ERI or HERS scores. With the goal of lowering the scores, initial estimates indicate that scores could drop by as many as 6 points when considering the application of Standard 310-2020.

The Code Council has held long-standing partnership with both RESNET and ACCA, which include a special certification designation and membership agreement.

The *ANSI/RESNET/ACCA/ICC 310-2020* publication is available for purchase through the Code Council store.

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**About the International Code Council**

The International Code Council is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions. Code Council codes, standards and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.

**About the ACCA**
ACCA is the only nationwide, non-profit association for professionals that install and maintain HVACR, indoor environment and building performance systems.

**About RESNET**
The Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) is a not-for-profit, membership corporation that is governed by a board of directors (who are elected by membership). RESNET is a recognized national standards-making body for building energy efficiency rating and certification systems in the United States.