



Research Participant Information Sheet

Air tightness testing of newly built dwellings

Project overview

Currently there is no minimum air tightness level that newly built homes and apartments need to achieve. Consequently, for the energy efficiency modelling that is done for compliance with the building code, an assumed air tightness is used. This project seeks to investigate the actual air tightness levels that are being achieved for newly built dwellings and compare that to the assumed values that are currently used in the modelling software. This will be done by undertaking an air tightness test (blower door test) on newly built dwellings to measure the actual air tightness.

What does participation involve?

Participation in this project will involve you granting us permission to access your home to perform an air tightness test. The test itself will be undertaken by a qualified Air Tightness Testing and Measurement Association (ATTMA) accredited technician with full liability insurance. The test takes approximately one hour to complete and requires that doors and windows remain closed during the testing process. There will be no cost involved to the homeowner and a copy of the air blower results report will be provided to the homeowner.

Risks and benefits

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this study and we will provide you with results from the test. The test itself involves pressuring your home to detect leaks using a large fan unit which is usually fitted within the front door frame. The fan itself can be noisy and sometimes dust may be raised during the process.

Withdrawal from the research project

Participation in this project is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at CSIRO. If you wish to withdraw after the project, simply notify the researchers listed below and your data will be destroyed. You may withdraw from this study at any time up until publication of the final outputs.

Confidentiality

All information provided by you will be treated confidentially. Any personal information collected will not be included in any publications resulting from the project. Any data collected as part of this project will be securely stored as per CSIRO's Recordkeeping Procedure.

How will my information be used?

The data obtained through the project will be utilised to establish typical air tightness levels for newly constructed homes and apartments. This will help the researchers establish whether assumed air tightness

levels that are currently used in energy efficiency modelling programs are reflective of actual air tightness levels being achieved. The aggregated data will be used in publications on the outcome of the project and may be used as part of future related research projects. The data may also be provided to other researchers when requested, but only when approved by CSIRO. The data will not be made publicly available.

Ethics clearance and contacts

This project has been approved by CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018). If you have any questions concerning your participation in the study please contact the researchers via their contact details provided. Alternatively, any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study can be raised with the Executive Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61 7 3833 5693 or by email at csshrec@csiro.au.

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Thank you for taking the time to help with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.

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