



## Change Request Ruling

**Change Request:** 4.7.4 Ventilation Equipment

**ID #:** CR-000012

**Submitted By:** Tyler Hermanson

**Submitted On:** December 24, 2019

**Ruling Date:** January 13, 2020

**Ruling:** **Change Request Declined.**

**Reason for Change Request and** This is a Change request for a NZEA under mentorship regarding a NZE home in lower mainland currently finishing construction and pursuing NZE labeling.

**Recommended Alternative:** Contractor has installed a new model of Zehnder HRV, Comfoair q-600. This unit is not currently listed on HVI, but similar older models are listed. Since this is in Climate Zone 4, testing at -25°C is not required. Attached Product info from Zehnder. Because this specific model has not been tested by HVI or any Canadian testing authority nor is it EnergySTAR rated it was found to be non-compliant with section 4.7.4.1. Changes proposed in NZE V1.1 do not address this issue.

The use of this HRV compared to other similar models that do meet program requirements are not expected to change energy consumption greatly and this is a high quality HRV by a reputable manufacture on a home that has been approved by the AHJ for occupancy.

The project requests a change to allow "equivalence" to be assessed by the NZEA. "Equivalence" will require a definition with the NZE program to allow NZEA to approve projects which substantially comply with regulations and which non-compliant elements are assessed to prove no impact on energy, health or comfort. All equivalence must be confirmed by AHJ as code compliant.

This change will give NZEA the needed flexibility to approve projects which should be labeled except for small, minor deficiencies from program requirements. The SO will review equivalence as a double check and if approved sent forward to label.

This arms length relationship between the NZSO and NZEA's assessment of projects continues to protect the CHBA from liability and will remove workload from NZE council volunteers.

**Additional Comments / Actions:** *The program utilizes existing codes, standards and government programs to decrease the potential for liability. The TC agreed that allowing equivalencies simply exposes the CHBA to unnecessary liability.*

*As per the ruling in CR-000004, a path to "alternative compliance" or "equivalency" will not be granted at this time.*

**Program Participants may use the amendments once they are posted - prior to the official version update.**