

Certified Program:



Training managed by:



Whole-House Rater Field House Exam

Location: TBD
Times: By Appointment
Time: 2 Hours
Cost: \$400.00 per person*

***Please Note:** There is an annual \$120.00 subscription fee due if you choose to become a CalCERTS HERS Rater. This fee covers your CalCERTS HERS membership and the administrative duties on our part to maintain your records.

***Prices subject to change without notice**

Project uploads for compliance verifications, whole-house ratings, and/or Energy Star certifications are subject to additional fees.

To register for your exam appointment: call (916) 985-3400 x2013

Target Market for this Course:

This exam is only for CalCERTS HERS candidates who wish to become Whole-House Raters and who have already attended (at a minimum) Classes I, II, III, IV, and VII. The intent of the **Whole-House Rater Field House Exam** is to meet the CEC requirements of Title 20 Section 1673(a)(6) “. . . to satisfactorily perform a rating for a least one home that includes field verification and diagnostic testing in the presence and under the direct supervision of the provider’s trainer or Quality Assurance Reviewer.”

Incoming Skills Necessary:

To better prepare candidates for work as California Whole-House Raters, we strongly suggest that those who enter possess some knowledge, skills, and abilities in the California HERS Program, the HVAC industry, and the construction industry. A comprehensive understanding of the diagnostic tests required under the HERS Rater Protocols is also expected to be known and understood.

In the course of your work as a Whole-House Rater you may also be required to have the following knowledge, skills, and abilities which are not taught in any of our CalCERTS trainings:

- High School diploma or GED
- 10th Grade English & Math minimal (especially fractions, percentages, geometry)
- Computer literacy
- Firm grasp of the English language (most codes and regulations are only in English)
- Ability to lift heavy objects (50 lbs. or more)
- Ability to inspect dark, tight, spaces

- Knowledge of and experience in the construction industry (how homes are constructed)
- Ability to properly measure the inside or outside of a home and find it's volume
- Ability and knowledge to identify and evaluate the fenestration (doors and windows) of a home
- Ability and knowledge to locate and identify HVAC equipment and components
- Ability and knowledge to locate and identify major appliances and lighting devices
- Ability and knowledge to find and collect data off appliance name plates
- Ability to draw a legible floor plan of a home while in the field

Field House Exam Objectives:

The **Whole-House Rater Field House Exam** is a two-step process. The first part involves collecting data and testing systems within a home. The second part focuses on energy modeling skills and abilities. It is meant to reveal the talents and skills of trained HERS FV/DT Raters. Candidates are not instructed at this event. The CalCERTS Trainer/Proctor is there to observe and evaluate the candidate's performance as they conduct various field verifications and diagnostic tests.

The following skills will be assessed and graded:

1. Field data collection.
2. Create an accurate and detailed sketch of the entire house
3. Ability to complete field data collection forms without assistance.
4. Enter all the data collected, including the blower door and duct leakage test results into the CalRATE*pro* software and generate an accurate HERS index and energy use estimate.
5. Gather energy bill history on the home and use it to compare to the simulated energy use.
6. Generate a list of upgrades to the home.
7. Upload the ZIP file to the CalCERTS registry and generate a HERS certificate.

Upon successful completion of the data collection, systems testing, and accurate energy modeling the candidate will be able to collect the credential that allows them to perform work as a California HERS Whole-House Rater.

Prerequisites (for achieving the HERS Whole-House Rater credential):

It is assumed that All candidates attending any of our HERS training courses have completed 10th grade English and math as well as being computer literate. These skills are not taught in any of our trainings and you'll need them as a HERS Rater in California.

Additionally, candidates must also have successfully passed the following classes in order to attend a Whole House Rater Field House Exam:

- Class I: HERS Basics
- Class II: Hands-On Lab
- Class III: Alterations to Existing Homes
- Class IV: Newly Constructed Homes
- Class VII: Whole House Energy Rater

Standards of Student Evaluation (for individual HERS Whole-House Rater certificate issuance):

All candidates must successfully demonstrate the following tests/verifications in the presence of a CalCERTS Trainer/Proctor without assistance:

1. **Field data collection.** Data collection must be done under the direct supervision of the instructor (not prior to the instructor showing up at the house). All data collection must be done independently by each rater (not together with other raters).

Note: The homeowner may want to know information about shell and/or duct leakage. Since these tests are optional for this field house, they can be done on this house without the supervision of the instructor or the instructor's equipment. However, the rater may not issue a rating, audit or CalRATE*pro* certificate to the homeowner until the rater is actually certified to do so.

2. Raters must demonstrate the ability to create an accurate and detailed sketch of the entire house without assistance. (Refer to CalCERTS Whole House Rater Field Data Collection Manual, Section 2.2.)
3. Raters must demonstrate the ability to complete field data collection forms without assistance.
4. Raters must enter all the data collected, including the blower door and duct leakage test results, if these tests were done, into the CalRATE*pro* software and generate an accurate HERS index and energy use estimate. (This can be done at a later time and sent to the instructor when finished.)
5. Raters must gather energy bill history on the home and use it to compare to the simulated energy use if the bill history is available.
6. Raters must generate a reasonable list of suggested upgrades to the home.
7. Raters must upload the ZIP file to the CalCERTS registry and generate a HERS certificate.
8. Originals or readable copies of all forms, certificates, and collected data must be provided to CalCERTS along with the ".bld" file. Adequate digital photos of the house should also be provided.
9. CalCERTS technical staff will evaluate the submittal and provide feedback. Students will be given one re-submittal opportunity after receiving feedback from CalCERTS Technical Staff. See exam policy below.

Whole House Field House exam policy

1. Candidates must schedule and pass the Whole House Field House exam within six months of completing all of Class VII. The six month period will start with the final written exam date of Class VII regardless of whether all written exams associated with those courses were passed.
2. Any written exam re-tests from the associated course work must be completed before attending the field house and within the same six month window. Candidates who fail to pass written exam re-tests shall be required to re-take the associated class at full cost. If during this period the six month window expires for the field house, the candidate will also be required to re-take Class VII: Whole House Rater, at full cost and will then have another 6 month window to pass the Whole House Field House.
3. If a candidate fails their first attempt at the Whole House Field House, then the one allowed re-test of the field house must be completed at full cost within the original six month window, with at least 48 hours between exam attempts. Candidates who fail to pass the Whole House Field House within six months, or who exhaust their re-test eligibility, shall be required to re-take Class VII: Whole House Rater, at full cost and will then have another 6 month window to pass the Whole House Field House.
4. If a student fails the Field House exam on their third attempt (after re-taking Class VII) they are excluded from becoming a CalCERTS Whole House Rater indefinitely.

Materials utilized in this Exercise:

Each candidate will have access to all the diagnostic equipment necessary to conduct the required tests performed by a FV/DT Rater. There is no requirement of the candidates to bring any testing equipment however, candidates with their own equipment may bring it if they feel more comfortable using it.

Candidates should bring: a tape measure, flashlight, graph paper, straight-edge, pencil, pen, calculator, clipboard, and notepad.

For questions about any of our trainings call 916-985-3400 x2013 or e-mail training@calcerts.com.