



January 6, 2005

Dear R-2000 Builder:

This letter is to inform you of important changes to the R-2000 Program that will make it simpler and easier for you to certify your houses.

Changes are being made to both the R-2000 Technical Requirements and Quality Assurance Procedures which will result in clear lines of accountability and reduced reporting requirements. For example, new HVAC requirements that appear in the National Building Code and are within the purview of the municipal authority will no longer be duplicated in the R-2000 Standard. The verification of the heating system by the R-2000 Inspector will be limited to checking nameplate information.

These changes signal the renewed partnership between Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the Canadian Home Builders' Association (CHBA) in the stewardship of the R-2000 Standard. NRCan and CHBA are proud of R-2000 as the original whole house system for energy efficiency in residential design and construction. Since the inception of the R-2000 Program in 1982, R-2000 builders have led the way for others, and R-2000 has been the model for many other programs in Canada and elsewhere for energy efficiency in housing. We are committed to maintaining R-2000 as the best of those options and to convincing consumers that they should choose an R-2000 builder.

These changes will be implemented over the next few months as we work to simplify the R-2000 process; details will be provided by the end of January. In the meantime, the current process will continue to allow you to meet customer needs and certify any houses now in the system.

We also want you to be aware of a new initiative from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) developed in cooperation with NRCan. We have enclosed the pamphlet on CMHC's important new mortgage insurance product that will make R-2000 houses less expensive to own and easier to sell.

We want to make sure R-2000 is working for you. If you have suggestions, please contact us through your provincial representative on the National R-2000 Builders Committee to bring your ideas and suggestions forward.

Sincerely,

Louis Marmen
Director, Housing and Equipment Division
Office of Energy Efficiency

Richard Lind
Chair, National R-2000
Builders Committee