

Glossary of Key Terms

Whole of Home Compliance Essentials: From Modelling to Certification

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Whole-of-Home (WoH) Compliance:** A comprehensive energy assessment under NCC 2022 that evaluates the total energy performance of a residential building, including its thermal shell, fixed services (HVAC, hot water, PV, battery), and plug loads.
- **NCC 2022:** The National Construction Code 2022, which introduced Whole-of-Home as a formal requirement for Class 1 and relevant parts of Class 2 buildings in Australia.
- **NatHERS:** The Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme, an Australian government initiative that assesses the energy efficiency of residential buildings, now integrated with WoH compliance.
- **Thermal Shell:** The building's envelope, including insulation, glazing, ventilation, orientation, and construction materials, which dictates its baseline energy demand for heating and cooling.
- **Fixed Services:** Energy-consuming or producing systems permanently installed in a building, such as HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems, domestic hot water systems, and solar PV and battery systems.
- **HVAC:** Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning systems; these are key components of a building's energy consumption and must be accurately modelled in WoH assessments.
- **Photovoltaic (PV) System:** A solar energy system that converts sunlight into electricity; its energy contribution offsets the building's energy demand in WoH modelling.

- **Battery Storage:** A system that stores electrical energy, typically from a PV system, for later use, further reducing reliance on grid energy and improving WoH scores.
- **Plug Loads:** The energy consumed by general household appliances (e.g., TVs, computers, refrigerators) that are not individually modelled, typically accounted for using default values.
- **Efficiency Factors:** Standardised energy usage values published by the ABCB (Australian Building Codes Board) for various fixed appliances, used to ensure consistency in WoH modelling.
- **Class 1 Dwelling:** A single dwelling or a building, other than a Class 2 building, which is a detached house, or one of a group of two or more attached dwellings.
- **Class 2 Building:** A building containing two or more sole-occupancy units where people reside, such as apartment buildings.
- **Defaults:** Pre-set conservative values used in modelling software when exact specifications for appliances or systems are unknown or unconfirmed.
- **Modelling Assumptions:** Judgements or estimations made by the assessor regarding specific inputs in the absence of complete data, which must be justified and documented.
- **Re-rating:** The process of re-assessing a Whole-of-Home model when significant design or specification changes occur, to ensure the assessment remains compliant with the as-built condition.
- **NCC Part A5 (Evidence of Suitability):** A section of the National Construction Code that outlines the requirements for providing verifiable evidence that building work complies with the Performance Requirements.
- **Accredited Software:** NatHERS-approved software tools (e.g., FirstRate5, BERS Pro, HERO) that include the Whole-of-Home module and comply with NatHERS protocols for energy assessments.
- **ABCB Housing Provisions:** A regulatory document that provides acceptable construction practices for residential buildings, including specific clauses (like Part 13.6) relevant to Whole-of-Home compliance.
- **NatHERS Technical Notes:** Supplementary documents providing detailed technical guidance for NatHERS assessors on various aspects of energy rating, including WoH.

- **CPD (Continuing Professional Development):** Ongoing learning activities undertaken by professionals to develop and enhance their abilities; often required for maintaining accreditation.