This document represents the 'Detailed Version' of the Home Inspection Process

I. Structural Systems

(a) Foundations

- (1) inspect slab surfaces, foundation framing components, subflooring, and related structural components;
- (2) report:
 - (A) the type of foundation(s); and
 - (B) the vantage point from which the crawl space was inspected; and
- (3) generally report present and visible indications used to render the opinion of adverse performance, such as:
 - (A) open or offset concrete cracks;
 - (B) binding, out-of-square, non-latching, warped, or twisted doors or frames;
 - (C) framing or frieze board separations;
 - (D) out-of-square wall openings or separations at wall openings or between the cladding and window/door frames;
 - (E) sloping floors, countertops, cabinet doors, or window/door casings;
 - (F) wall, floor, or ceiling cracks;
 - (G) rotating, buckling, cracking, or deflecting masonry cladding;
 - (H) separation of walls from ceilings or floors; and
 - soil erosion, subsidence or shrinkage adjacent to the foundation and differential movement of abutting flatwork such as walkways, driveways, and patios;
- (4) report as Deficient:
 - (A) exposed or damaged reinforcement;
 - (B) a crawl space that does not appear to be adequately ventilated;
 - (C) crawl space drainage that does not appear to be adequate;
 - (D) deteriorated materials;
 - (E) damaged beams, joists, bridging, blocking, piers, posts, pilings, or sub-floor:
 - (F) non-supporting piers, posts, pilings, columns, beams, sills, or joists; and
 - (G) damaged retaining walls related to foundation performance; and
- (5) render a written opinion as to the performance of the foundation.
- **(c) Grading and drainage.** improper or inadequate grading around the foundation (including flatwork);
 - (1) erosion;
 - (2) water ponding; and
 - (3) deficiencies in installed gutter and downspout systems.

(e) Roof covering materials.

- (1) inspect the roof covering materials from the surface of the roof;
- (2) report:
 - (A) type of roof covering(s);
 - (B) vantage point from where the roof was inspected
 - (C) any levels or surfaces that were not accessed;
 - (D) evidence of previous repairs to roof covering materials, flashing details, skylights, and other roof penetrations; and
 - (E) evidence of water penetration; and
- (3) report as Deficient:
 - (A) a roof covering that is not appropriate for the slope of the roof;
 - (B) deficiencies in:
 - (i) fastening of roof covering material, as determined by a random sampling;
 - (ii) roof covering materials;
 - (iii) flashing details;
 - (iv) skylights; and
 - (v) other roof penetrations.

(g) Roof structure and attic.

- (1) report:
 - (A) the vantage point from which the attic space was inspected;
 - (B) the presence of and approximate average depth of attic insulation and thickness of vertical insulation, when visible; and
 - (C) evidence of water penetration; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) attic space that does not appear to be adequately ventilated;
 - (B) deficiencies in installed framing members and decking;
 - (C) deflections or depressions in the roof surface as related to the adverse performance of the framing and the roof deck;
 - (D) missing insulation;
 - (E) deficiencies in attic access ladder and access opening; and
 - (F) deficiencies in attic ventilators.

(i) Interior walls, ceilings, floors, and doors.

- (1) report evidence of water penetration; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A)doors and hardware that do not operate properly;
 - (B) deficiencies related to structural performance or water penetration; and
 - (C) lack of fire separation between the garage and the residence and its attic space.

(k) Exterior walls, doors, and windows.

- (1) report evidence of water penetration; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) the lack of functional emergency escape and rescue openings in all sleeping rooms;
 - (B) the lack of a solid wood door not less than 1-3/8 inches in thickness, a solid or honeycomb core steel door not less than 1-3/8 inches thick, or a 20-minute fire-rated door between the residence and an attached garage;
 - (C) missing or damaged screens;
 - (D) deficiencies related to structural performance or water penetration; and
 - (E) deficiencies in:
 - (i) claddings;
 - (ii) water resistant materials and coatings;
 - (iii) flashing details and terminations;
 - (iv) the condition and operation of exterior doors, garage doors, and hardware; and
 - (v) window operation and components.

(m) Exterior and interior glazing.

- (1) inspect the window and door glazing (glass); and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) insulated windows that are obviously fogged or display other evidence of broken seals:
 - (B) deficiencies in glazing, weather stripping, and glazing compound in windows and exterior doors; and
 - (C) the absence of safety glass in hazardous locations.

(o) Interior and exterior stairways.

- (1) spacing between intermediate balusters, spindles, or rails for steps, stairways, guards, and railings that permit passage of an object greater than 4 inches in diameter, except that on the open side of the staircase treads, spheres less than 4-3/8 inches in diameter may pass through the guard rail balusters or spindles; and
- (2) deficiencies in steps, stairways, landings, guardrails, and handrails.

(q) Fireplace and chimney.

- (1) built-up creosote in visible areas of the firebox and flue;
- (2) the presence of combustible materials in near proximity to the firebox opening;
- (3) the absence of fireblocking at the attic penetration of the chimney flue, where accessible;
- (4) an inoperative circulating fan; and
- (5) deficiencies in the:
 - (A) damper:
 - (B) lintel, hearth, hearth extension, and firebox;
 - (C) gas log lighter valve and location;
 - (D) combustion air vents; and
 - (E) chimney structure, termination, coping, crown, caps, and spark arrestor.

(s) Porches, Balconies, Decks, and Carports.

- (1) inspect balconies, attached carports, and attached porches and abutting porches, decks, and balconies that are used for ingress and egress; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) on decks 30 inches or higher above the adjacent grade, spacings between intermediate balusters, spindles, or rails that permit passage of an object greater than four inches in diameter;
 - (B) deficiencies in visible footings, piers, posts, pilings, beams, joists, decking, water proofing at interfaces, flashing, surface coverings, and attachment points of porches, decks, balconies, and carports; and
 - (C) deficiencies in, or absence of required, guardrails and handrails.

II. Electrical Systems

(a) Service entrance and panels.

- (1) a drop, weatherhead, or mast that is not securely fastened to the structure;
- (2) the lack of a grounding electrode system:
- (3) the lack of a grounding electrode conductor;
- (4) the lack of a secure connection to the grounding electrode system;
- (5) deficiencies in the insulation of the service entrance conductors, drip loop, separation of conductors at weatherheads, and clearances;
- (6) electrical cabinets, gutters, meter cans, and panel boards that:
 - (A) are not secured to the structure;
 - (B) are not appropriate for their location;
 - (C) have deficiencies in clearances and accessibility;
 - (D) are missing knockouts; or
 - (E) are not bonded and grounded:
- (7) cabinets, disconnects, cutout boxes, and panel boards that do not have dead fronts secured in place with proper fasteners;
- (8) conductors not protected from the edges of electrical cabinets, gutters, or cutout boxes;
- (9) trip ties not installed on 240 volt circuits;
- (10) deficiencies in the type and condition of the wiring in the cutout boxes, cabinets, or gutters;
- (11) deficiencies in the compatibility of overcurrent devices and conductors;
- (12) deficiencies in the overcurrent device and circuit for labeled and listed 240 volt appliances;
- (13) a panel that is installed in a hazardous location, such as a clothes closet, a bathroom, where there are corrosive or easily ignitable materials, or where the panel is exposed to physical damage;
- (14) the absence of appropriate connections, such as copper/aluminum approved devices;

- (15) the absence of anti-oxidants on aluminum conductor terminations;
- (16) the lack of a main disconnecting means;
- (17) the lack of arc-fault circuit interrupting devices serving family rooms, dining rooms, living rooms, parlors, libraries, dens, bedrooms, sunrooms, recreations rooms, closets, hallways, or similar rooms or areas; and
- (18) failure of operation of installed arc-fault circuit interrupter devices.

(c) Branch circuits, connected devices, and fixtures.

- (1) report the type of branch circuit conductors;
- (2) manually test the accessible smoke alarms by use of the manufacturer's approved test or by the use of canned smoke; and
- (3) report as Deficient:
 - (A) the lack of ground-fault circuit interrupter protection in all:
 - (i) bathroom receptacles;
 - (ii) garage receptacles;
 - (iii) outdoor receptacles;
 - (iv) crawl space receptacles;
 - (v) unfinished basement receptacles:
 - (vi) kitchen countertop receptacles; and
 - (vii)laundry, utility, and wet bar sink receptacles located within 6 feet of the outside edge of a laundry, utility, or wet bar sink; and
 - (B) the failure of operation of ground-fault circuit interrupter protection devices:
 - (C) receptacles that:
 - (i) are damaged;
 - (ii) are inoperative;
 - (iii) have incorrect polarity;
 - (iv) are not grounded, if applicable;
 - (v) display evidence of arcing or excessive heat;
 - (vi) are not securely mounted; or
 - (vii)have missing or damaged covers;
 - (D) switches that:
 - (i) are damaged;
 - (ii) are inoperative;
 - (iii) display evidence of arcing or excessive heat:
 - (iv) are not securely mounted; or
 - (v) have missing or damaged covers;
 - (E) deficiencies in or absences of conduit, where applicable;
 - (F) appliances and metal pipes that are not bonded or grounded;
 - (G) deficiencies in wiring, wiring terminations, junctions, junction boxes, devices, and fixtures, including improper location;
 - (H) the lack of equipment disconnects;
 - the absence of appropriate connections, such as copper/aluminum approved devices, if branch circuit aluminum conductors are discovered in the main or sub-panel based on a random sampling of accessible receptacles and switches;
 - (J) improper use of extension cords;
 - (K) deficiencies in smoke alarms that are not connected to a central alarm system; and
 - (L) the lack of smoke alarms:
 - (i) in each sleeping room;
 - (ii) outside each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of the sleeping rooms; and

(iii) on each additional story of the dwelling, including basements but excluding crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics (in dwellings with split levels and without an intervening door between the levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level and the adjacent lower level shall suffice provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level).

III. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Systems

(a) Heating equipment.

- (1) report:
 - (A) the type of heating system(s); and
 - (B) the energy source(s);
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) an inoperative unit;
 - (B) deficiencies in the controls and operating components of the system;
 - (C) the lack of protection from physical damage;
 - (D) burners, burner ignition devices or heating elements, switches, and thermostats that are not a minimum of 18 inches above the lowest garage floor elevation, unless the unit is listed for garage floor installation;
 - (E) inappropriate location;
 - (F) inadequate access and clearances:
 - (G) deficiencies in mounting and operation of window units; and
 - (H) deficiencies in thermostats;
- (3) in electric units, report as Deficient deficiencies in:
 - (A)operation of heating elements; and
 - (B) condition of conductors; and
- (4) in gas units, report as Deficient:
 - (A) gas leaks;
 - (B) the presence of forced air in the burner compartment;
 - (C) flame impingement, uplifting flame, improper flame color, or excessive scale buildup;
 - (D) the lack of a gas shut-off valve; and
 - (E) deficiencies in:
 - (i) conditioned, combustion, and dilution air;
 - (ii) gas shut-off valves and locations;
 - (iii) gas connector materials and connections; and
 - (iv) the vent pipe, draft hood, draft, proximity to combustibles, and vent termination point and clearances.

(b) Cooling equipment other than evaporative coolers.

- (1) report the type of system(s); and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) inoperative unit(s);
 - (B) inadequate cooling as demonstrated by its performance in the reasonable judgment of the inspector;
 - (C) inadequate access and clearances;
 - (D) noticeable vibration of the blower fan or condensing fan;
 - (E) deficiencies in the condensate drain and auxiliary/secondary pan and drain system;
 - (F) water in the auxiliary/secondary drain pan;
 - (G) a primary drain pipe that terminates in a sewer vent:
 - (H) missing or deficient refrigerant pipe insulation;
 - (I) dirty evaporator or condensing coils, where accessible;
 - (J) damaged casings on the coils;

- (K) a condensing unit lacking adequate clearances or air circulation or that has deficiencies in the condition of fins, location, levelness, or elevation above ground surfaces;
- (L) deficiencies in mounting and operation of window or wall units; and (M)deficiencies in thermostats.

(c) Evaporative coolers.

- (1) report:
 - (A) type of system(s) (one- or two-speed);
 - (B) the type of water supply line; and
 - (C) winterized units that are drained and shut down; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) inoperative units;
 - (B) inadequate access and clearances;
 - (C) corrosive and mineral build-up or rust damage/decay at the pump, louvered panels, water trays, exterior housing, or the roof frame;
 - (D) less than a one-inch air gap between the water discharge at the float and water level in the reservoir:
 - (E) corrosion, decay, or rust on the pulleys of the motor or blower;
 - (F) the lack of a damper; and
 - (G) deficiencies in the:
 - (i) function of the pump;
 - (ii) interior housing, the spider tubes, tube clips, bleeder system;
 - (iii) blower and bearings;
 - (iv) float bracket;
 - (v) fan belt;
 - (vi) evaporative pad(s);
 - (vii) installation and condition of the legs on the roof rails and fasteners to the roof structure and the unit:
 - (viii) roof jack; and
 - (ix) thermostats.

(d) Duct system, chases, and vents.

- damaged ducting or insulation, improper material, or improper routing of ducts;
- (2) the absence of air flow at accessible supply registers in the habitable areas of the structure;
- (3) improper or inadequate clearance from the earth; and
- (4) deficiencies in:
 - (A) duct fans;
 - (B) filters;
 - (C) grills or registers;
 - (D) the location of return air openings; and
 - (E) gas piping, sewer vents, electrical wiring, or junction boxes in the duct system, plenum(s), and chase(s).

IV. Plumbing Systems

(a) Plumbing systems.

- (1) report:
 - i. static water pressure:
 - ii. location of water meter; and
 - iii. location of main water supply valve; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (1) the presence of active leaks;
 - (2) the lack of fixture shut-off valves;

- (3) the lack of dielectric unions, when applicable;
- (4) the lack of back-flow devices, anti-siphon devices, or air gaps at the flow end of fixtures:
- (5) water pressure below 40 psi or above 80 psi static;
- (6) the lack of a pressure reducing valve when the water pressure exceeds 80 PSI;
- (7) the lack of an expansion tank at the water heater(s) when a pressure reducing valve is in place at the water supply line/system; and
- (8) deficiencies in:
 - (A) water supply pipes and waste pipes;
 - (B) the installation and termination of the vent system;
 - (C) the operation of fixtures and faucets not connected to an appliance;
 - (D) water supply, as determined by viewing functional flow in two fixtures operated simultaneously;
 - (E) functional drainage at fixtures;
 - (F) orientation of hot and cold faucets;
 - (G) installed mechanical drain stops;
 - (H) installation, condition, and operation of commodes;
 - (I) fixtures, showers, tubs, and enclosures; and
 - (J) the condition of the gas distribution system.

(c) Water heaters.

- (1) report the energy source;
- (2) report the capacity of the unit(s);
- (3) report as Deficient:
 - (A) inoperative unit(s);
 - (B) leaking or corroded fittings or tank(s);
 - (C) broken or missing parts or controls;
 - (D) the lack of a cold water shut-off valve;
 - (E) if applicable, the lack of a pan and drain system and the improper termination of the pan drain line;
 - (F) an unsafe location:
 - (G) burners, burner ignition devices or heating elements, switches, or thermostats that are not a minimum of 18 inches above the lowest garage floor elevation, unless the unit is listed for garage floor installation:
 - (H) inappropriate location;
 - (I) inadequate access and clearances;
 - (J) the lack of protection from physical damage;
 - (K) a temperature and pressure relief valve that:
 - (i) does not operate manually;
 - (ii) leaks:
 - (iii) is damaged;
 - (iv) cannot be tested due to obstructions;
 - (v) is corroded; or
 - (vi) is improperly located; and
 - (L) temperature and pressure relief valve discharge piping that:
 - (i) lacks gravity drainage;
 - (ii) is improperly sized;
 - (iii) has inadequate material; or
 - (iv) lacks proper termination;
- (3) in electric units, report as Deficient deficiencies in:
 - (A) operation of heating elements; and
 - (B) condition of conductors; and
- (4) in gas units, report as Deficient:
 - (A) gas leaks;
 - (B) lack of burner shield(s);

- (C) flame impingement, uplifting flame, improper flame color, or excessive scale build-up;
- (D) the lack of a gas shut-off valve; and
- (E) deficiencies in:
 - (i) combustion and dilution air;
 - (ii) gas shut-off valve(s) and location(s);
 - (iii) gas connector materials and connections; and
 - (iv) vent pipe, draft hood, draft, proximity to combustibles, and vent termination point and clearances.

(e) Hydro-massage therapy equipment.

- (1) inoperative unit(s) and controls;
- (2) the presence of active leaks;
- (3) inaccessible pump(s) or motor(s);
- (4) the lack or failure of required ground-fault circuit interrupter protection; and
- (5) deficiencies in the ports, valves, grates, and covers.

V. Appliances

(a) Dishwasher.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) rust on the interior of the cabinet or components;
- (3) failure to drain properly;
- (4) the presence of active water leaks; and
- (5) deficiencies in the:
 - (A) door gasket;
 - (B) control and control panels;
 - (C) dish racks;
 - (D) rollers;
 - (E) spray arms;
 - (F) operation of the soap dispenser;
 - (G) door springs:
 - (H) dryer element;
 - (I) door latch and door disconnect;
 - (J) rinse cap:
 - (K) secure mounting of the unit; and
 - (L) backflow prevention.

(b) Food waste disposer.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) unusual sounds or vibration level;
- (3) the presence of active water leaks; and
- (4) deficiencies in the:
 - (A) splash guard;
 - (B) grinding components;
 - (C) exterior casing; and
 - (D) secure mounting of the unit.

(c) Range exhaust vent.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) a vent pipe that does not terminate outside the structure, if the unit is not of a re-circulating type or configuration;
- (3) inadequate vent pipe material;
- (4) unusual sounds or vibration levels from the blower fan(s):
- (5) blower(s) that do not operate at all speeds; and

- (6) deficiencies in the:
 - (A)filter;
 - (B) vent pipe;
 - (C) light and lens;
 - (D) secure mounting of the unit; and
 - (E)switches.

(d) Electric or gas ranges, cooktops, and ovens.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) the lack of a gas shut-off valve;
- (3) gas leaks; and
- (4) deficiencies in the:
 - (A) controls and control panels;
 - (B)thermostat(s) sensor support;
 - (C) glass panels;
 - (D) door gasket(s), hinges, springs, closure, and handles;
 - (E)door latch;
 - (F) heating elements or burners:
 - (G) thermostat accuracy (within 25 degrees at a setting of 350 °F)
 - (H) drip pans;
 - (I) lights and lenses;
 - (J) clearance to combustible material:
 - (K)anti-tip device;
 - (L) gas shut-off valve(s) and location(s);
 - (M) gas connector materials and connections; and
 - (N) secure mounting of the unit.

(e) Microwave oven.

- (1) inspect built-in units; and
- (2) report as Deficient:
 - (A) inoperative unit(s); and
 - (B) deficiencies in the:
 - (i) controls and control panels;
 - (ii) handles;
 - (iii) the turn table;
 - (iv) interior surfaces;
 - (v) door and door seal;
 - (vi) glass panels:
 - (vii)lights and lenses;
 - (viii) secure mounting of the unit; and
 - (ix) operation, as determined by heating a container of water or with other means of testing.

(f) Trash compactor.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) unusual sounds or vibration levels; and
- (3) deficiencies in the secure mounting of the unit.

(f) Mechanical exhaust vents and bathroom heaters.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) unusual sounds, speed, and vibration levels;
- (3) vent pipes that do not terminate outside the structure;
- (4) a gas heater that is not vented to the exterior of the structure; and
- (5) the lack of an exhaust ventilator in required areas.

(h) Garage door operators.

- (1) inoperative unit(s);
- (2) door locks or side ropes that have not been removed or disabled; and

- (3) deficiencies in:
 - (A)installation;
 - (B) condition and operation of the garage door operator;
 - (C) automatic reversal during the closing cycle;
 - (D) electronic sensors;
 - (E)the control button; and
 - (F) the emergency release components.

(i) Doorbell and chimes.

- (1) inoperable unit(s); and
- (2) deficiencies in components.

(j) Dryer vents.

- (1) improper routing and length of vent pipe;
- (2) inadequate vent pipe material;
- (3) improper termination;
- (4) the lack of a dryer vent system when provisions are present for a dryer; and
- (5) damaged or missing exterior cover.

VI. Optional Systems.

(1) Lawn and garden sprinkler systems.

- (A) manually operate all zones or stations on the system; and
- (B) report as Deficient:
 - (i) surface water leaks;
 - (ii) the absence or improper installation of anti-siphon devices and backflow preventers;
 - (iii) the absence of shut-off valves;
 - (iv) deficiencies in water flow or pressure at the zone heads;
 - (v) the lack of a rain or freeze sensor;
 - (vi) deficiencies in the condition of the control box; and
 - (vii)deficiencies in the operation of each zone, associated valves, and spray head patterns.

(2) Swimming pools, spas, hot tubs and equipment.

- (A) report the type of construction:
- (B) report as Deficient:
 - (i) a pump motor, blower, or other electrical equipment that lacks bonding;
 - (ii) the absence of or deficiencies in safety barriers;
 - (iii) water leaks in above-ground pipes and equipment;
 - (iv) deficiencies in lighting fixture(s);
 - (v) the lack or failure of required ground-fault circuit interrupter protection; and
 - (vi) deficiencies in:
 - (I) surfaces;
 - (II) tiles, coping, and decks;
 - (III) slides, steps, diving boards, handrails, and other equipment;
 - (IV) drains, skimmers, and valves; and
 - (V) filters, gauges, pumps, motors, controls, and sweeps; and
- (C) when inspecting a pool heater, report deficiencies that these standards of practice require to be reported for the heating system.

(2) Outbuildings.

- (A) the lack of ground-fault circuit interrupter protection in grade-level portions of unfinished accessory buildings used for storage or work areas, boathouses, and boat hoists; and
- (B) deficiencies in the structural, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and cooling systems that these standards of practice require to be reported for the principal structure.

(3) Outdoor cooking equipment.

- (A) inspect the built-in equipment; and
- (B) report the energy source; and
- (C) report as Deficient:
 - (i) inoperative unit(s);
 - (ii) a unit or pedestal that is not stable;
 - (iii) gas leaks; and
 - (iv) deficiencies in:
 - (I) operation;
 - (II) control knobs, handles, burner bars, grills, the box, the rotisserie (if present), and heat diffusion material;
 - (III) gas shut-off valve(s) and location(s); and
 - (IV) gas connector materials and connections.

(4) Gas supply systems.

- (A) test gas lines using a local or an industry-accepted procedure; and
- (B) report as Deficient:
 - (i) leaks; and
 - (ii) deficiencies in the condition and type of gas piping, fittings, and valves.

(5) Private water wells.

- (A) operate at least two fixtures simultaneously;
- (B) recommend or arrange to have performed water quality or potability testing;
- (C) report:
 - (i) the type of pump and storage equipment; and
 - (ii) the proximity of any known septic system; and
- (D) report as Deficient deficiencies in:
 - (i) water pressure and flow and operation of pressure switches;
 - (ii) the condition of visible and accessible equipment and components; and
 - (iii) the well head, including improper site drainage and clearances.

(6) Private sewage disposal (septic) systems.

- (A) report:
 - (i) the type of system;
 - (ii) the location of the drain field; and
 - (iii) the proximity of any known water wells, underground cisterns, water supply lines, bodies of water, sharp slopes or breaks, easement lines, property lines, soil absorption systems, swimming pools, or sprinkler systems; and
- (B) report as Deficient:
 - (i) visual or olfactory evidence of effluent seepage or flow at the surface of the ground;
 - (ii) inoperative aerators or dosing pumps; and
 - (iii) deficiencies in:
 - (I) accessible or visible components;
 - (II) functional flow;
 - (III) site drainage and clearances around or adjacent to the system; and (IV) the aerobic discharge system.

(7) Whole-house vacuum system.

- (A) inoperative units;
- (B) deficiencies in the main unit; and
- (C) deficiencies in outlets.

(8) Other built-in appliances.

(A) The inspector shall report deficiencies in condition or operation of other built-in appliances not listed in this section.