



Technical

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14 SEER Condenser Minimum Requirement

*****New 13 SEER condensers can no longer be installed in California under any condition.*****

On June 27, 2011 the U.S. Department of Energy adopted new federal air conditioner efficiency standards. For California those federal standards require efficiencies of SEER 14 and EER 12.2 for central split system air conditioners smaller than 45,000 Btu/hr (a SEER 14 and EER of 11.7 is required for larger central split system air conditioners). The new federal standards went into effect on January 1, 2015, which was six months after the July 1, 2014 effective date of the 2013 Standards.

Although new federal efficiency standards went into effect on January 1, 2015, initially under the 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, 13 SEER A/C condensers could still be installed if the manufacturing date of that appliance was prior to 1 January 2015. As of September 21, 2015, code language in the 2013 Residential Compliance Manual was revised to indicate that equipment "installed on or after January 1st, 2015, must comply with the minimum SEER and EER requirements of (Table 4-6) regardless of date of manufacture."

Per direction from the CEC, the CalCERTS registry will not allow entry of SEER/EER values that do not meet the minimum federal standards. Please confirm that all of your

installers are aware of this change as it may still be possible to acquire 13 SEER appliances from HVAC suppliers or from internal company inventory.

A copy of the 2013 Residential Compliance Manual may be downloaded from the CEC at this URL:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2013standards/residential_manual.html

4.3.1 Mandatory Measures for Cooling Equipment

Table 4-6 – Minimum Cooling Efficiencies for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps

Appliance	Type	SEER Eff Before 1/1/2015	SEER Eff 1/1/2015	EER Eff 1/1/2015
Central Air Conditioners ¹	Split System <45,000 Btuh	13.0	14	12.2
	Split System ≥45,000 Btuh	13	14	11.7
	Single Package	13.0	14	11.0
Central Air Source Heat Pumps	Split System	13.0	14	NR
	Single Package	13.0	14	NR
Space Constrained Air Conditioner	Split System	12	12	NR
	Single Package	12	12	NR
Space Constrained Heat Pump	Split System	12	12	NR
	Single Package	12	12	NR
Through-The-Wall Air Conditioner	Split System	10.9	10.9	NR
	Single Package	10.6	10.6	NR
Through-The-Wall Heat Pump	Split System	10.9	10.9	NR
	Single Package	10.6	10.6	NR
Small Duct, High Velocity Air Conditioner	All	13	13	NR
Small Duct, High Velocity Heat Pump	All	13	13	NR

¹ Central split system air conditioners and central single package air conditioners installed on or after January 1st, 2015, must comply with the minimum SEER and EER requirements of this table regardless of date of manufacturer.

Source: California Appliance Efficiency Regulations Table C-2 Title-20 and Federal Appliance Standards (NAECA)

NR = No Requirement

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact our Field Support staff at field@calcerts.com.

Thank you,

CalCERTS, Inc.