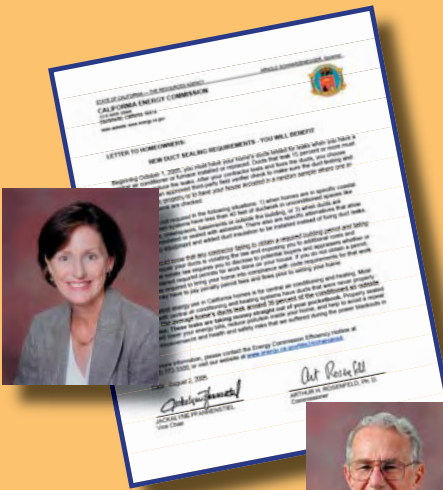


The new California
Energy Efficiency Standards
go into effect on October 1, 2005

Energy Commission Releases Letter to Homeowners on New Duct Sealing Requirements for HVAC Changeouts

Properly sealed duct systems will lower energy bills, increase comfort and reduce indoor air pollutants in consumers' homes. It will also help reduce California's peak energy load.



A letter explaining the 2005 HVAC Change-out to consumers is available on page 3 of this bulletin or you can download the letter at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout/>

The 2005 duct sealing requirements for HVAC change-outs in existing homes become effective October 1, 2005. The Energy Commission has partnered with a number of organizations to provide information and training on the new requirements as detailed below:

▼ Letter to Homeowners:

The letter shown on the left hand side of this page (and reproduced full size on page 3), is addressed to homeowners, and is signed by the Energy Commission's Energy Efficiency Committee, Jackalynne Pfannenstiel, Commission Vice Chair, and Commissioner Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Ph.D. It explains the requirements for homeowners. Building department personnel, contractors, builders, equipment manufacturers and distributors are encouraged to reproduce and distribute the letter, which can be copied from this bulletin, or downloaded from the **2005 HVAC Change out Information** website at: www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout.

▼ Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E):

PG&E has sponsored extensive training to contractors in their service territory regarding the new duct sealing requirements for changeouts. PG&E continues to sponsor training for building officials and the industry on Standards requirements. For information on training and class schedules: www.pge.com/stockton.

▼ The Institute of Heating and Air Conditioning Industries, Inc (IHACI):

IHACI and the Southern California Gas Company have teamed up to provide ten training sessions on the change-out requirements to heating and air conditioning contractors throughout Southern California. Southern California Edison also has sponsored two training sessions and has met with IHACI to add more sessions in the future. Additional information can be obtained from the IHACI website at: www.ihaci.org/

Continued on next page

BLUEPRINT

▼ Contractors State License Board (CSLB):

The Energy Commission and the Contractors State License Board have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to encourage licensed contractors to effectively comply with the Energy Efficiency Standards. CSLB's Summer 2005 newsletter— contains an article on page 5 entitled "CSLB and California Energy Commission Partner to Provide Code Information to Contractors." CSLB is also planning to release a Bulletin on the new requirements to all licensed C-20 contractors as the next step in the MOU collaboration.

▼ Training videos:

The Energy Commission is nearing completion of training videos, in cooperation with PG&E and IHACI, on the duct sealing requirements. The training videos include segments of a training class (8 segments totaling 2 hours of training); interviews with utility leaders regarding why the duct sealing requirements are important for our electricity supply system; an interview with an HVAC contractor, who provides duct sealing services, explaining why his company is already pursuing duct sealing and welcomes HERS rater field verification. The videos will be available on the Commission's website at: www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout CDs containing the videos will be distributed to contractors and building officials.



▼ Blueprint 78 — Changeout Special Bulletin:

A special edition of the *Blueprint* newsletter that covers the duct requirements in detail was distributed on July 20, 2005. See issue 78 at: www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout and www.energy.ca.gov/efficiency/blueprint/index.html.



Starting October 1, 2005, California contractors in climate zones 2, and 9 through 16, will be required to do duct sealing when changing out HVAC equipment in existing buildings. Third-party field verification by a certified home energy rater (HERS rater) also is required at least on a sampling basis to insure that the duct sealing is accomplished.

These new requirements apply when replacing the air handler, the outdoor condensing unit of a split system air conditioner or heat pump, cooling or heating coil, or the furnace heat exchanger. These replacements are considered alterations under the Energy Efficiency Standards.

More details than presented here are in the 2005 Energy Standards and 2005 Compliance Manuals available at: www.energy.ca.gov/title24/2005standards/

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov**LETTER TO HOMEOWNERS:****NEW DUCT SEALING REQUIREMENTS - YOU WILL BENEFIT**

Beginning October 1, 2005, you must have your home's ducts tested for leaks when you have a central air conditioner or furnace installed or replaced. Ducts that leak 15 percent or more must be repaired to reduce the leaks. After your contractor tests and fixes the ducts, you choose whether to have an approved third-party field verifier check to make sure the duct testing and sealing was done properly or to have your house included in a random sample where one in seven duct systems are checked.

Duct sealing is not required in the following situations: 1) when homes are in specific coastal climates; 2) when systems have less than 40 feet of ductwork in unconditioned spaces like attics, garages, crawlspaces, basements or outside the building, or 3) when ducts are constructed, insulated or sealed with asbestos. There also are specific alternatives that allow high efficiency equipment and added duct insulation to be installed instead of fixing duct leaks.

You also should know that any contractor failing to obtain a required building permit and failing to test and repair your ducts is violating the law and exposing you to additional costs and liability. Real estate law requires you to disclose to potential buyers and appraisers whether or not you obtained required permits for work done on your house. If you do not obtain a permit, you may be required to bring your home into compliance with code requirements for that work and you may have to pay penalty permit fees and fines prior to selling your home.

The greatest energy use in California homes is for central air conditioning and heating. Most homes with central air conditioning and heating systems have ducts that were never properly sealed. **The average home's ducts leak around 30 percent of the conditioned air outside the home. These leaks are taking money straight out of your pocketbook.** Properly sealed ducts will lower your energy bills, reduce pollution inside your home, and help to avoid a repeat of the inconvenience and health and safety risks that we suffered during the power blackouts in 2000.

For more information, please contact the Energy Commission Efficiency Hotline at (800) 772-3300, or visit our website at www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout.

Date: August 2, 2005

Handwritten signature of Jackalynne Pfannenstiel in blue ink.

JACKALYNE PFANNENSTIEL
Vice Chair

Handwritten signature of Arthur H. Rosenfeld in blue ink.

ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD, Ph. D.
Commissioner

BLUEPRINT

Title 24

Energy Efficiency Standards Training

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

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ENERGY
COMMISSION**



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Links for training on issues relating to California Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (Title 24, Part 6) is available on the Energy Commission's website at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/training>

For training offered by the utilities and other organizations please see the following websites:

PG&E:

<http://www.pge.com/stockton>

SoCal Gas Co.:

<http://seminars.socalgas.com/int/default.asp>

San Diego Gas and Electric:

<http://seminars.sdge.com/int/default.asp>

SCE:

<http://www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/EnergyCenters/workshops.htm>

SMUD:

<http://www.smud.org/education/index.html>

CALBO TRAINING INSTITUTE:

<http://www.calbo.org>

BUILDING INDUSTRY INSTITUTE (BII):

<http://www.consol.ws/bect.asp>

CABEC:

<http://www.cabec.org/cepetrainandtest.php>

Nonresidential Fenestration Certification Initiative (NFCI):

<http://nfciecst.csuchico.edu>

Residential Lighting Design Guide

– Best practices and lighting designs to help builders comply with California's 2005 Title 24 energy code:

<http://www.cltc.ucdavis.edu/>



Need Help? CALL THE ENERGY HOTLINE @

(800) 772-3300 or (916) 654-5106