



Air-Conditioning, Heating,  
and Refrigeration Institute

# Consensus Agreement on Regional Minimum Efficiency Standards

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## Efficiency Standards Consensus Agreement

- **Residential Furnaces, Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps**
  - Comprehensive Agreement
  - Preserves federal preemption
  - Establishes new regional federal minimums
  
- **Signed October 13, 2009**
  - AHRI, ACEEE, NRDC, CEC, ASE, NEEP, ASAP

## Federal Minimum Standards

System Type	≥ 5000 HDD	< 5000 HDD	CA/AZ/NM/NV
Split A/C	13 SEER	14 SEER	14 SEER /12.2 EER <45,000 Btu/h 14 SEER /11.7 EER ≥45,000 Btu/h
Split HP	14 SEER /8.2 HSPF	14 SEER /8.2 HSPF	14 SEER /8.2 HSPF
Package A/C	14 SEER	14 SEER	14 SEER/11.0 EER
Package HP	14 SEER/8.0 HSPF	14 SEER/8.0 HSPF	14 SEER/8.0 HSPF
Gas-Pack (weatherized)	14 SEER/81% AFUE	14 SEER/81% AFUE	14 SEER/81% AFUE
Gas Furnaces (non-weatherized)	90% AFUE	80% AFUE	80% AFUE
Oil Furnaces (non-weatherized)	83% AFUE	83% AFUE	83% AFUE

- Effective dates:
- May 1, 2013 for non-weatherized furnaces
- Jan 1, 2015 for air conditioners & heat pumps, including weatherized furnaces (gas packs)
- Effective dates of subsequent standards:
- 2019 for non-weatherized furnaces and 2022 for air conditioners/heat pumps and weatherized furnaces (gas-packs).



## Building Code Provisions

- **Cannot be Accomplished Through DOE Rulemaking**
- **Expands Tolerance for Performance-Based Building Codes**
  - Only applies to new construction/major renovation
    - Not applicable to one-for-one replacement unless equipment > 1 ton for A/C and >20% of capacity for other products
  - If code offers multiple optional combinations
    - one combination must be at
      - federal minimum levels and
      - another at the predetermined higher efficiency levels

## Benefits

- Provides predictability
- Manageable number of regions
- Preserves federal preemption
- Strengthens industry's ability to plan for future, ensuring greater stability
- Saves energy and money for consumers; enacts program most think makes sense

## Getting it Enacted

- DOE currently working on rulemaking for ACs & Furnaces
- They have the agreement; not sure how they will act
- We want Congress to enact it into law
- Concerted effort to bring that about in waning days
- DOE draft rule will be out before the end of 2010

