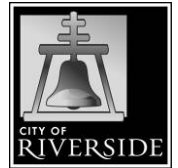


City of Riverside

Building & Safety Division

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www.riversideca.gov



❖ HOMEOWNER INFORMATION FOR HVAC REPLACEMENTS ❖

Leaking air conditioning or heating ducts have been identified by the California Energy Commission as a major energy consumption issue. Therefore, effective October 1, 2005 the California Energy Commission required contractors to verify that conditioned air duct systems don't have excessive leaks when replacing heating, ventilation, or air conditioning (HVAC) components. Third-party field verification by a certified Home Energy Rater (HERS rater) is also required to insure that the contractor has properly sealed the leaking ducts.

Note that there are three exceptions to duct sealing requirements:

1. Duct systems that are documented to have been previously sealed as confirmed through field verification and diagnostic testing.
2. Duct systems with less than 40 linear feet in unconditioned spaces (i.e. attics).
3. Existing duct systems constructed, insulated, or sealed with asbestos.

These new duct sealing requirements apply when replacing the air handler, or outdoor condensing unit of a split system air conditioner or heat pump, or cooling or heating coil, or the furnace heat exchanger.

For these types of replacement projects, the contractors must use duct pressurization equipment to test the leakage of the duct system and complete and sign the California Energy Commission's CF-6R form. The CF-6R form must then be posted at the site and a copy is to be provided to the HERS rater, who will perform a verification test to assure compliance with the duct leakage limitations.

Upon successful completion of the duct testing, the HERS rater must complete a CF-4R form, which must be provided to the City Building Inspector at the time of City inspection. By law, HERS raters must be certified by a HERS provider and be independent from the HVAC contractor. The HERS raters cannot be employees of the contractor whose work that they are verifying.

ALTERNATIVE TO DUCT TESTING

The alternative to duct testing is to have a completely new HVAC system installed that meets the efficiency requirements below.

- Option #1: 14 SEER and 12 EER air conditioner with RC or TXV and add R-4 duct wrap insulation to all the ducts.
- Option #2: .92 AFUE furnace or a 9.0 HSPF heat pump and a combined 14 SEER and 12 EER air conditioner with RC or TXV.
- Option #3: .82 AFUE furnace or a 8.5 HSPF heat pump and a combined 14 SEER and 12 EER air conditioner with RC or TXV and add R-4 duct wrap insulation to all the ducts.

HERS verification is required for the refrigerant charge or TXV and that the EER standard is met. If 100% of the ducts are replaced, then the alternative method cannot be used and the ducts must be HERS tested.

To find a HERS rater, contact the California Energy Commission HOTLINE at: (800) 772-3300 or any of the following:

www.calcerts.com (916) 985-3400
www.cheers.org (800) 424-3377
www.cbpa.org (800) 352-2722

Please note that at final inspection you need to provide the CF-6R and CF-4R forms to the City Building Inspector.