

City of Riverside

Building & Safety Division

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.

Effective January 1, 2010 the California Energy Commission has required contractors to verify that new equipment comply with additional requirements to insure that you will receive an energy efficient installation.

The contractors must use duct pressurization equipment to test the leakage of the duct system, perform additional field verifications and complete and sign the California Energy Commission's CF-6R forms. The CF-6R forms must then be posted at the site and a copy is to be provided to the HERS rater, who will perform verification tests to assure compliance.

Upon successful completion of the contractor testing, the HERS rater must field verify the installation, and complete the CF-4R forms, 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.

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

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