

Q

I understand that the federal air conditioner standards that require a minimum SEER 13 went into effect on January 23, 2006. Can an air conditioner that has a SEER rating less than SEER 13 be installed in newly constructed buildings, additions or as a replacement unit after January 23?

A

The January 23, 2006 date pertains to the date of manufacture of the air conditioner. To comply with the federal appliance standards, any air conditioner or heat pump that federal law requires to have a SEER rating must be a SEER 13 or greater if it was manufactured on or after January 23. It is unlawful to sell or install an air conditioner manufactured on or after January 23 that fails to have at least a SEER 13 rating.

To comply with the **prescriptive approach** in California's 2005 Building Energy Efficiency Standards, an air conditioner that has a rating between SEER 10 and SEER 13 can be sold and installed in newly constructed buildings, additions or as a replacement unit, if the building department determines that the air conditioner was manufactured before January 23, and all other prescriptive requirements are also met. These requirements include third-party field-verified duct sealing and either third-party field-verified thermostatic expansion valves or refrigerant charge measurement.

To comply through the **performance approach**, an air conditioner that has a rating between SEER 10 and SEER 13 can be sold and installed in newly constructed buildings, additions or as a replacement unit, if the building department determines that the air conditioner was manufactured before January 23, and compliance is shown using Commission-approved compliance software. The proposed design must use the SEER rating of the installed air conditioner.

To comply with **any Commission-approved alternative to doing duct sealing and refrigerant charge measurement or thermostatic expansion valves** (such as Table 8-3 of the Residential Compliance Manual), a SEER rating of 13 or any higher SEER and EER that is specified in that alternative must be installed.

BLUEPRINT

Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards Training

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

**CALIFORNIA
ENERGY
COMMISSION**



Commissioners

Joseph Desmond
Chair

Jackalyne Pfannenstiel
Vice Chair

Arthur H. Rosenfeld, Ph.D

James D. Boyd

John L. Geesman, J.D.

B.B. Blevins
Executive Director

Buildings and Appliances Office
1516 Ninth Street, MS-25
Sacramento, CA
95814-5512
(916) 654-4064

Beverly Duffy
Editor
Designer

Elaine Hebert
Technical Editor

Dottie Horgan
Distribution Manager

Special Thanks to:
Valerie Hall, Bill Pennington,
Eurlyne Geiszler, Melinda Merritt
and Bruce Maeda for all of their help
in the creation of this edition of the Blueprint.

Publication number CEC-400-2006-004

Links for training on issues relating to California Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (Title 24, Part 6) are 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://nfc.ecst.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/>

Flex your
POWER™



Flex Your Power Newswire:
<http://www.fypower.org/news/enewswire.html>



Need Help? CALL THE ENERGY HOTLINE @

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