Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about CBECC-Res

Updated April 16, 2020

CBECC-Res 2019

FAQS POSTED APRIL 16, 2020

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1. **Is the minisplit heat pump compliance option approved?**
Yes, it is identified as the variable capacity heat pump (VCHP) compliance option and was approved and is useable in CBECC-Res 2019.1.2.

2. **What are the high points of the new VCHP process?**
You can model ductless, fully ducted and partially ducted systems. One of the reasons minisplit systems were modeled with default efficiencies was that there were no HERS protocols to ensure an efficient end-product. Therefore, it should be no surprise that the VCHP process includes a comprehensive list of HERS verified measures. You will see them on the CF1R under HERS Feature Summary, and a new section "Variable capacity heat pump compliance option – HERS Verification" on the CF1R. Section 8.2.6 of the user manual also has this list.

3. **Is there a document that explains the VCHP verification procedures in greater detail?**
    Appendix B of the VCHP staff report is entitled VCHP Compliance Credit—Eligibility Verification Protocols. This document is available from the newly established CEC website dedicated to VCHP (https://www.energy.ca.gov/rules-and-regulations/building-energy-efficiency/manufacturer-certification-building-equipment-2).

4. **Does modeling a 20 SEER VCHP give me credit when compared to a VCHP with a 14 SEER?**
    You will see a credit for VCHP (depending on duct and fan conditions), however, the credit is not directly connected to the SEER, EER, and HSPF values modeled. As noted on the CBECC-Res screen the efficiencies modeled will not affect compliance. It is the overall VCHP system as verified by a HERS rater that receives the credit. NOTE: When higher than minimum efficiencies (14 SEER, 11.6 EER, and 8.2 HSPF) are modeled, the CF1R will reflect HERS required verification of the efficiencies.

    A decision you will need to make is—do I want the CF1R to shows 19 SEER and 10 HSPF at the cost of verifying those efficiencies—or is 14 SEER and 8.2 HSPF with no HERS verified efficiencies adequate? It is a choice you and your client will need to make since there is no benefit to verifying higher efficiencies.

5. **Why am I getting an error message when running my Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) as newly constructed?**

    If you are modeling only an ADU, there are recent clarifications for how the ADU (attached/detached) feature applies. Select attached or detached on the building tab for "includes an accessory dwelling unit" only if:

    A. The ADU is an addition (based on Blueprint No. 122 or Section 10.2 of CBECC-Res user manual)—it is attached, or it is a detached converted space; or
    B. The project is to construct a new dwelling unit and an ADU at the same time.

    When an ADU is detached and newly constructed, and that is the only construction occurring, it is not an addition and the ADU designation is not appropriate.

6. **How do I correct the error for the newly constructed ADU?**

    Because of the possibility you have modeled something other than a default exhaust fan, (a) first make sure the ADU shows a default minimum IAQ fan, and (b) then modify the building tab entry for "Includes Accessory Dwelling Unit" to reflect "no." (The ADU tab now has nothing shown and your newly constructed (scope) ADU will run.)

    By way of explanation (since your file previously ran), the ADU tab was added to CBECC-Res to accommodate indoor air quality requirements (in the 2016 Energy Code only additions > 1,000 ft^2 needed to meet IAQ, but in the 2019 Energy Code the requirements apply to any increase in the number of dwelling units (§150.2(a)1C) regardless of size). When a detached, newly constructed building (which is not an addition) is identified as an ADU, it results in incorrect IAQ requirements (one for an addition and one for a newly constructed building).

To prevent this from happening Version 1.2 forced an error. Unfortunately, the remedy mentioned in the error message is misleading. While it is true that if the ADU is attached, or is a converted detached space, then calling it an addition alone is appropriate. But in this case, it is not an addition.

7. **My CF1R shows ADU square footage. Since this is new construction, this should be 0. How can I change it?**

    You must edit the file in textpad/notepad to change row 95 (approximately) to reflect "SFamADUArea = 0". Make sure the ADU Bedrooms also reflect 0.

    ```
    91   FrontOrientation = 233
    92   GasType = "Natural Gas"
    93   HasGarage = 0
    94   SFamADUNumBedrooms = 0
    95   SFamADUArea = 568 [change to 0, save, run]
    ```

GENERAL

A. **My CBECC-Res Projects folder is very full. Is there an easy description of how I can clear out unnecessary files?**

    These directions assume you do not make special folders inside the projects folder. Included is enough detail to be assured you still have the input file (*.ribd), the XML file for uploading (BEES in name, XML Document type), and the CF1R (BEES in name, Adobe Acrobat Document type). There is also a less detailed description in user manual Section 2.13):

    1. Opening Windows Explorer, any folders inside the CBECC-Res Projects folder that have the name of a project file, and end in "– Comp19" (or Comp16) can be deleted.

        For example, input file 20-076 Smith.ribd19 has a folder 20-076 Smith – Comp19 inside of which are several file types CSE file, REP File, ERR File, Microsoft Excel. This entire folder can be deleted. There is one for every input file you've run.

        If you want to delete more (there are plenty more) . . .

    2. In your Windows Explorer make sure you are seeing "details" (option in the view tab), meaning 3-4 columns including name, date, type, size. Click on the Type column to sort by type. Find these file types:

        a. Microsoft Excel (again this is assuming you do not use the projects folder to store any needed files and this is strictly CBECC-generated files), you can delete all of the Excel files.

        b. Text files can all be deleted.

        c. Since you have already cleaned up a significant amount, you can stop here. But you can also delete the XML files that do not have "BEES" as part of the name.

3. When you feel confident, empty your recycle bin.

B. Do you have any tips for staying current on CBECC-Res and its latest features?

Yes, there are two tips:

1. Because staying informed can be overwhelming and time-consuming, every time there is a new release of CBECC-Res, there is a section included in the user manual called "What's New and Different." To find it, once you've installed the update, start the program, go to help, user manual. On the left are bookmarks, one of which is to this section. It lists highpoints of what you need to know about this latest version.

    (NOTE: To keep both older and newer versions of CBECC, just add a number to the end of the file names. Your desktop icon will access the new version, but you can contact support if you need help creating an icon for the older version.)

2. Make sure you have signed up for the list to be notified of updates to CBECC-Res (http://www.bwilcox.com/BEES/BEES.html). This email list is notified even before the CEC's website is updated. If you do not get an email from "CBECC-Res Compliance Software (cbecc.res.list@gmail.com)" a day or two before receiving an email from the CEC, you are not on the CBECC-Res specific list and you might want to sign up (it is limited to CBECC-Res topics). Within a day or two (if you are on the CEC listserver), you receive a brief announcement from BUILDINGSTANDARDS@ LISTSERVER.ENERGY.CA.GOV (this gets a lot of traffic).