FAQs Regarding New Energy-Efficiency Standards

What does SEER stand for?

SEER is short for Seasonal Energy-Efficiency Ratio and is a measure of relative air conditioning efficiency. The larger the number, the more efficient the equipment is.

What is the regulation regarding SEER ratings?

The regulation states that condensing units produced after January 1, 2015, for the Southwest and Southeast markets must be rated at least 14 SEER. Southwest products must also meet a 12.2/11.7 EER rating depending on tonnage. Additionally, all heat pumps and packaged units must also be rated 14 SEER or higher. **Customers have until June 30, 2016, to install their 13 SEER product** produced before January 1, 2015, in the Southwest and Southeast regions.

What changes occur on July 1, 2016?

The regulation states that 13 SEER products are no longer legal to be installed in the Southwest and Southeast regions.

Will a 14 SEER Dry22 product be available?

At this time the Department of Energy (DOE) is reviewing test procedures, including this type of dry ship product, and will inform manufacturers whether they will be permitted to produce a 14 SEER Dry22 platform. No date for the updated test procedure has been given.

What is the cost difference between a 13 SEER and 14 SEER unit?

Currently HD Supply is estimating a 15-20% cost difference from 13 to 14 SEER.

When upgrading from a 13 SEER to a 14 SEER condenser, do I need to flush the system when installing the 14 SEER?

No, flushing the system is not required when moving SEER ratings. However, if you are converting from R-22 to R-410A, flushing the system is highly recommended.

Can I use my existing indoor coil with a new 14 SEER outdoor unit?

It is always recommended to change the indoor coil at the same time as the outdoor unit for optimal performance and reliability. Depending on the year the indoor coil was produced, there is a chance that it may be compatible with 14 SEER outdoor units. Units with 8 and 10 SEER ratings will most likely NOT work with a 14 SEER unit, causing issues with liquid returning to the compressor. For AHRI ratings please see our Product Support information on page 477 in Catalog V66 or visit **hdsupplysolutions.com/HVAC**.

Do I need to change my metering device when going from a 13 SEER to a 14 SEER outdoor unit?

Yes, the metering device (piston or TXV) must be per the outdoor unit specification. It is very unlikely that the 13 SEER piston or TXV will be the same for 14 SEER.

What is the physical size difference between 13 SEER and 14 SEER condensing units or heat pumps?

The physical size change of the unit varies significantly depending on the capacity, but as a general rule of thumb, 14 SEER outdoor units are larger than 13 SEER units.

Do I have to do anything to my existing systems after January 1, 2015?

No, any existing systems can continue to run until a replacement is needed.

If a property in the North has 13 SEER equipment, can they ship the product to a southern property?

Generally speaking, NO! Only 13 SEER equipment manufactured before January 1, 2015, can be installed in the southern portion of the U.S. Shipping from one property in the North to a property in the South would be against the DOE's regulation.

What does EER stand for?

EER stands for Energy Efficiency Ratio. Similar to SEER, it is a measurement of air conditioning efficiency. However, EER is rated at 95˚F ambient, whereas SEER is rated at 80˚F ambient.

Do my installation practices or installation tools change when moving from 13 SEER to 14 SEER?

No, installing a 14 SEER unit uses the same tools and installation procedures.

If I reside in the Southwest, how do I comply with the 12.2/11.7 EER portion of the regulation?

HD Supply has worked with manufacturers to get the correct lineup of 14 SEER/12.2/11.7 EER products for that portion of the country. All Southwest products 3.5 ton or less will have a 12.2 EER rating. All Southwest products 4 or 5 ton will have an 11.7 EER rating and are specifically labeled in Catalog V66 in dark blue.

What states in the Southwest and Southeast regions are affected?

U.S. Southwest: Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico

U.S. Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

We're Here to Help

How to Identify a System's SEER Rating

For steps on how to identify system SEER ratings, please see page 477.