



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT • BUILDING INSPECTION DIVISION  
500 Castro Street • Post Office Box 7540 • Mountain View • California • 94039-7540  
650-903-6313 • Fax 650-962-8501

**HERS, HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM TESTING**  
**Changes to the 2013 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards**  
**Effective July 1, 2014**

**AIR CONDITIONING UNITS (RESIDENTIAL)**

Forced Air-Duct Leakage Testing is required to be performed by a HERS Rater for the following work:

- New and replacement air conditioning systems: the total leakage of the duct system shall not exceed 6 percent of the air-flow.
- New and replacement air handling units: the total leakage of the duct system shall not exceed 6 percent of the air-flow.
- When more than 40-ft of new or replacement air ducts is being installed: measured duct leakage shall be 15 percent or less of the air-flow.

**FURNACES (RESIDENTIAL)**

Forced Air-Duct Leakage Testing is required to be performed by a HERS Rater for the following work:

- New and replacement forced air heating systems: the total leakage of the duct system shall not exceed 6 percent of the air-flow.
- New and replacement furnaces: the total leakage of the duct system shall not exceed 6 percent of the air-flow.
- When more than 40-ft of new or replacement air ducts is being installed: measured duct leakage shall be 15 percent or less of the air-flow.

Check the following California Energy Commission websites for additional information

For Residential Homeowners:

[HVAC Change-out for Homeowners](#)  
[Letter to Homeowners](#)

For Residential Contractors:

[HVAC Change-out for Contractors](#)  
[Title 24 Compliance form for HVAC Alterations](#)