

B.C. ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACT STANDARDS: Gas Furnaces

MEMPR ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN 09-03



What products are you regulating? The British Columbia *Energy Efficiency Act (EEA)* Automatic operating gas-fired central forced-air furnaces that use propane or natural gas and have an input rate not exceeding 66 kW (225 000 Btu/h). The regulation applies to residential and commercial furnaces.

Are you forcing me to replace my furnace? No. The regulation only applies to purchases of new or replacement furnaces. Individuals can keep their existing furnaces for as long as they wish.



What is the regulated energy efficiency standard for those products? Such products must achieve an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) equal to or greater than 90%, as tested under the standard CSA P.2-07: *Testing Method for Measuring the Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency of Residential Gas-fired Furnaces and Boilers*. These products are commonly known as “condensing furnaces.”

When will the regulations take effect in British Columbia?

For furnaces for new residential construction and all commercial buildings: January 1, 2008.

Replacement furnaces in existing dwellings: December 31, 2009.



Can I sell my inventory of non-compliant products after the effective date? For furnaces for new residential construction, any products manufactured after January 1, 2008 must comply with the regulation.

For replacement furnaces, any products manufactured after December 31, 2009 must comply with the regulation. If you have unsold inventory of products manufactured before the effective date, they can still be sold legally in British Columbia after the effective date.

Are there any exemptions to these regulations? Furnaces for recreational vehicles are exempted from the regulation. The Ministry is also providing an extended timeline for “through the wall” furnaces. A through-the-wall gas furnace is a gas-fired furnace that is designed and marketed to be installed in an opening in an exterior wall that is fitted with a weatherized sleeve. For through-the-wall gas-fired furnaces only, the 90% AFUE standard will come into effect on December 31, 2012.

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How can I tell if a product is compliant with the energy efficiency regulations? Suppliers can demonstrate compliance with the standard by ensuring that the product is listed in the Natural Resources Canada furnace database, and that the database indicates an AFUE equal to, or greater than 90%: www.oeenrcan.gc.ca/residential/business/manufacturers/search/gas-furnace-search.cfm?attr=4

Who enforces this regulation? The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is responsible for enforcing all regulated standards under the *EEA*.

What are the penalties for non-compliance? Under the *EEA*, the Ministry can conduct inspections to verify compliance with the *Act* and regulations. *EEA* enforcement begins with education and voluntary compliance measures. Ministry staff follow up on all complaints and other information respecting non-compliance, and communicate directly with industry participants to develop a compliance plan.

The Ministry can also seek to have those who have contravened the legislation charged under the *Offence Act*. An offence can result in fines up to \$2,000.

What do I do if I see a non-compliant product for sale or distribution? Please circulate this enforcement bulletin to the retailer or distributor. You can also report infractions to Erik Kaye, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources at 250-356-1507 or Erik.Kaye@gov.bc.ca



For more information on B.C.'s Energy Efficiency Act:
www.empr.gov.bc.ca/EAED/EnergyEfficiency/Pages/EEAct.aspx