



Breaking News

Rheem Government Affairs

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DOE Finalizes Test Procedure for Consumer AC and Heat Pumps

Updates to Appendix M1 plus new efficiency metrics

On December 19th, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the final test procedure for consumer air conditioners and heat pumps with a cooling capacity <65,000 Btu/h.

The final rule amends the M1 test procedure to incorporate by reference the latest version of AHRI 210/240-2024. Amendments include:

- Controls Verification Procedure (CVP) for variable speed products,
- R-410A air handler production clarification post January 1, 2025, and
- Disposition of R-410A components in distributor inventory.

DOE did not change the ratings requirements for Outdoor Unit with No Match (OUWNM), maintaining the strict requirements for condensing units to rate with a specific indoor coil if not distributed in commerce as a combination.

Manufacturing of R-410A air handlers is permitted after 1/1/2025 if a system rating was established in the DOE database prior to 1/1/2025.

Concurrent with this publication, DOE also finalizes Appendix M2, officially establishing **SCORE** (seasonal cooling and off- mode rating efficiency) and **SHORE** (seasonal heating and off-mode rating efficiency) as the new efficiency reporting metrics replacing SEER2 and HSPF2. Testing to the SCORE and SHORE metrics will not be mandatory until such time as the efficiency standard is revised and compliance deadline set.

See next page for detailed compliance scenarios of the final rule.

Key Takeaways

The DOE test procedure for residential AC/HP is now final and takes effect 180 days from publication.

Compliance with the amended procedure is mandatory for testing 180 days after publication in the federal register, which is expected within the coming weeks.

DOE made no changes to OUWNM requirements but did clarify disposition of R-410A components and remaining inventory.

New metrics SCORE and SHORE replace SEER2 and HSPF2, but compliance is not required until the efficiency standard is updated.

For more information, visit the DOE [rulemaking page](#) for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps



Certification and Rating Requirements Summary

Indoor or Outdoor Unit Manufactured or Imported:	Distributed as:	R-410A Outdoor Units	R-410A Indoor Units
Before 1/1/2025	Matched System	Per EPA, matched systems can be installed prior to 1/1/2026 if they were manufactured prior to 1/1/2025.	
		Must be certified/rated in combinations with indoor units as distributed in commerce before 1/1/2025 and the matched system must comply with applicable standard. OUWNM does not apply.	Must be certified/rated in combinations with outdoor units as distributed in commerce before 1/1/2025 and the matched system must comply with applicable standard.
	Indoor or Outdoor unit	Per EPA, indoor and outdoor units can also be installed as replacement units on or after 1/1/2025.	
On or After 1/1/2025	Indoor or Outdoor unit	Must be certified/rated as OUWNM and comply with the applicable standard. Recertification/rerating is required if previous ratings were matched combinations. No new certification of matched systems is allowed.	Must be certified/rated in combinations with outdoor units as distributed in commerce before 1/1/2025 and the matched system must comply with applicable standard. No new certification of matched systems is allowed.

