



AHRI Policy Position Codes & Standards Adoption

The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, refrigeration (HVACR) and water heating equipment within the global industry. AHRI's more than 320 member companies account for over 90 percent of HVACR and water heating residential and commercial equipment manufactured and sold in North America.

Background

Efficient and environmentally friendly HVACR equipment has become a key initiative for many states across the country aiming to reduce short-term carbon emissions safely. AHRI members have been working at the state, national, and international level to assist in the effort to make HVACR and water heating equipment more efficient, and to innovate to reduce the global warming potential of next generation refrigerants.

Building codes have emerged as a tool to achieve reductions in state's energy consumption and are one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways for states and local jurisdictions to enable options and to implement energy demand-management policies and goals.

As the industry innovates and updates products to increase consumer comfort and efficiency, the consensus safety and energy efficiency standards that ensure proper and safe installation, maintenance, and use of HVACR and water heating products are updated through a continuous maintenance process and periodically replaced. For example, UL 484, UL Standards 471, 427, 412 and CSA Standard C22.2 No. 120-13 are scheduled to sunset on September 29, 2022 and UL Standard 1995 and CSA Standard C22.2 No. 236 are scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2024. New standards such as ASHRAE 15, UL/CSA Standards 60335-2-40 and 60335-2-89 supersede sunset standards, and it is critical that these upgraded standards be adopted into local and national building codes to incorporate new electrical and ventilation safety requirements as well as safely enable the use of new products, including low global warming potential refrigerants. Updated versions of UL Standard 60335-2-89 and ASHRAE 15.2 also will allow for new products.

The ASHRAE Standard 90.1 *Energy Standard for Buildings* committee regularly meets to incorporate new opportunities to improve energy efficiency, and we strongly encourage its adoption. Other standards, such as ASHRAE 62.1, are well-planned for ventilation requirements for buildings such as ASHRAE 62.1

The Department of Energy (DOE) also regulates energy efficiency for many products. As such, only the federal government can manage these regulations in a consistent and cost-effective manner throughout the country without creating a patchwork of requirements. Inconsistent regulations create impractical and costly supply chains that can limit consumer choice.

Industry Position and Considerations

With most states on a three year building code review cycle, and manufacturers requiring several years lead time for design changes after code adoption, states seeking to increase efficiency or mandate new HVACR and water heating performance goals should ensure they are updating to the latest industry consensus standards that are technologically neutral and in line with federal standards.

AHRI also encourages states to ensure that they comply with the latest federal performance and efficiency metrics, to allow the industry uniform compliance across the country. Adopting standards into the building code that are consistent with federal energy conservation policies and use the same metrics will allow industry to smoothly transition to compliance with any state level policies.

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