



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
HERBERT S. SAFFIR PERMITTING AND INSPECTION CENTER

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ADVISORY MEMO

TO: ALL BUILDING OFFICIALS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

FROM: Jaime D. Gascon, P.E., Director 
Board and Code Administration Division

DATE: October 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Upcoming Air Conditioning Equipment Efficiency Changes

Changes to energy efficiency standards of HVAC systems are on the horizon, effective January 1, 2023.

The Department of Energy (DOE) evaluates appliances to determine whether minimum efficiency requirements and testing standards warrant change. In 2023, the minimum efficiencies for central air conditioners will increase and testing procedures to rate such units will change as well.

The new testing procedures raises external static pressure (from .1 to .5) to better represent field conditions. Higher static pressure requires higher watts, thereby reducing the resulting numeric efficiency rating. As a result, in 2023, efficiency metrics will change and be labeled as SEER2.

- For Split-systems – air conditioners with a certified cooling capacity less than 45,000 BTU/hr., the minimum efficiency will increase from 14 SEER to 14.3 SEER2.
- For Split-systems – air conditioners with a certified cooling capacity equal to or greater than 45,000 BTU/hr., the minimum efficiency will increase from 14 SEER to 13.8 SEER2

Air conditioning equipment **installed on or after January 1, 2023**, must comply with the (DOE) and the Florida Building Code – Energy Conservation, minimum SEER2 energy efficiency requirements.

For the purposes of identifying the date of installation, (DOE) established a definition for “installation of a central air conditioner” in Standard 10 CFR, as “the connection of the refrigerant lines and/or electrical systems to make the central air conditioner operational.” If this step has been completed then the air conditioner has been installed for the purposes of the energy conservation standard, even if it is accomplished prior to the full completion of the housing unit itself.

The following table depicts sample cases that may be encountered when conforming to this code change.

<p>Case 1: Manufacturer has certified system as compliant with 2023 standards using new DOE test (SEER2)</p>	<p>OUTDOOR UNIT Manufactured and installed in 2023</p>	<p>INDOOR UNIT Manufactured and installed in 2022</p>	<p>In Miami-Dade County: System as described can be installed if compliant with the FBC, Energy Conservation, revision effective January 1, 2023 (SEER2)</p>
<p>Case 2: Discontinued system manufactured before 2023 and certified as compliant with pre-2023 standards using the old DOE test (SEER)</p>	<p>OUTDOOR UNIT Manufactured before 2023 and installed in 2023</p>	<p>INDOOR UNIT Manufactured and installed before 2023</p>	<p>In Miami-Dade County: System as described can only be installed on or after Jan. 1, 2023, if compliant with the FBC, Energy Conservation, revision effective January 1, 2023 (SEER2)</p>
<p>Case 3: Replacement outdoor unit manufactured in 2023 installed with existing indoor unit manufactured before 2023</p>	<p>OUTDOOR UNIT Manufactured and installed in 2023</p>	<p>INDOOR UNIT Manufactured and installed before 2023</p>	<p>In Miami-Dade County: Compliant for installation if outdoor unit is compliant with the FBC, Energy Conservation, revision effective January 1, 2023 (SEER2) as an outdoor unit with no match using the new test (SEER2)</p>

If you have any questions, please contact Pete Quintela, Senior Code Officer (Energy) at (786) 315-2518 (Office) or (786) 719-6703 (Mobile) or via email at PQ2@miamidade.gov.