

# REGIONAL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

**U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) minimum efficiency changes went into effect on January 1, 2015**, affecting all residential air conditioners and heat pumps we manufacture. One additional change implemented that adds complication is regional standards that apply to Split System and Package Air Conditioners. Now, the DOE minimum efficiency standards include both national standards (which are based on date of manufacture) and regional standards (which are based on date of installation).

## New National Standards

- Split system heat pumps (14 SEER / 8.2 HSPF)
- Single package heat pumps (14 SEER / 8.0 HSPF)
- Single package air conditioner (14 SEER)
- Single package gas/electric (14 SEER / 81% AFUE)
- Gas fired furnaces (80% AFUE)
- Kept 13 SEER base national standard for split-system air conditioners

## Labeling

There are two methods to help identify products subject to regional standards. The first is the Energy Guide label that is noticeably different, with the inclusion of the map of the United States that identifies where the equipment can be installed.

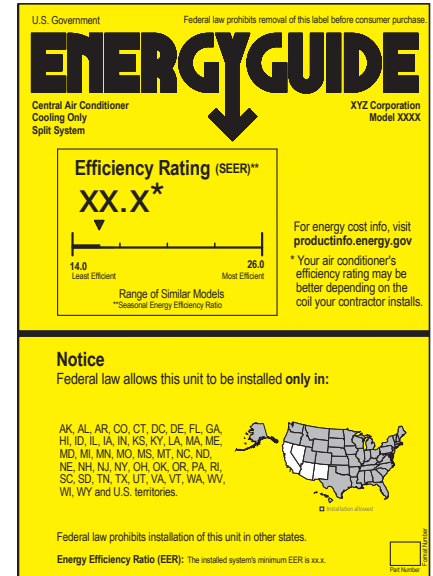
The second is a new, separate statement that will be on the rating plate or on a label next to the rating plate called the "Install Prohibited" statement. All products subject to regional standards now have both the Energy Guide label and the Install Prohibited label.

You will also notice a range on the new Energy Guide label for Split Systems. Split System products subject to the new regional efficiency minimum standard of 14 SEER will have a range above 14 SEER and will not have an AHRI match below the 14 SEER minimum.

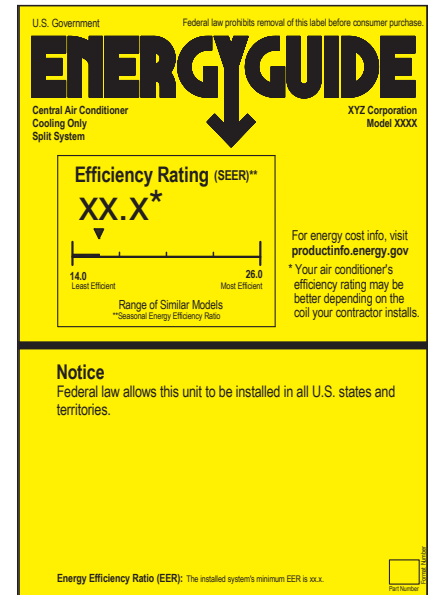
NOTE: The Federal Trade Commission has reversed their design change of the Energy Guide label having a range. Effective mid-2017, the range on split systems will change back to a single value.

## Energy Guide Labels Currently in Effect

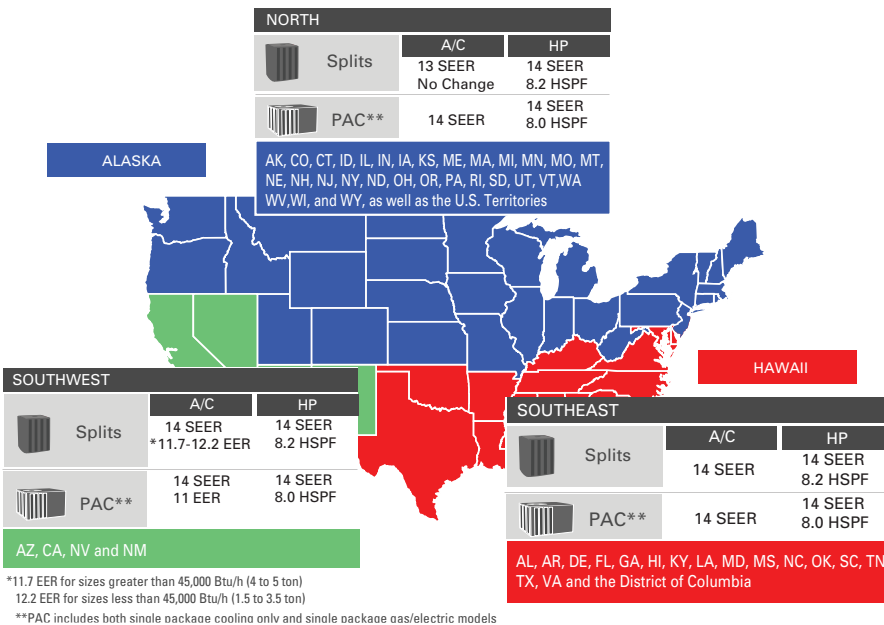
Subject to regional standards



Can be installed anywhere



Efficiency Standards: This map summarizes the national and regional efficiency standards.



## REGIONAL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

### What You Need to Know as a Distributor

DOE defines a distributor as “a person (other than a manufacturer or retailer) to whom a consumer product is delivered or sold for purposes of distribution in commerce.” Therefore, if you resell product for sale other than to an end user, you may be considered a distributor as opposed to a contractor or dealer (see definitions below).

Distributors are required to comply with new requirements:

1. Do not knowingly sell product that will be installed in violation of regional standards.
2. Conduct regional standards training for all employees and customers.
3. Maintain records for all units subject to the regional standards for a period of 54 months. These records are to include the outdoor unit manufacturer, model number, serial number, date of purchase, date of sale, customer name and delivery address if delivered.

### What You Need to Know as a Contractor/Dealer

As a contractor or dealer, you will also be required to adhere to requirements of the DOE 2015 HVAC Regional Standards Enforcement Rules. DOE has defined a contractor as “a person (other than the manufacturer or distributor) who sells to and/or installs for an end user a central air condi-

tioner subject to regional standards.” DOE has defined a dealer as “a type of contractor, generally with a relationship with one or more specified manufacturers.” The contractor/dealer requirements include the following:

1. Do not knowingly install product that is in violation of regional standards.
2. Conduct regional standards training for all employees.
3. Maintain records for all units subject to the regional standards for a period of 48 months. These records to include the indoor and outdoor unit manufacturer and model number, outdoor unit serial number, distributor purchased from, date and address of installation.

### Enforcement

Enforcement of the new standards will be at least partially via complaints registered with the DOE. DOE has set up an email for reporting suspected violations directly to them at [EnergyEfficiencyEnforcement@doe.gov](mailto:EnergyEfficiencyEnforcement@doe.gov), or suspected violations can be reported by phone, at (202) 287-6997.

All verified violations will require remediation and can result in stiff fines. Notices of Violation will be posted publicly by the DOE. Further, if a distributor or contractor/

dealer is found to routinely violate the new standards, manufacturers can be prohibited from selling products to that party.

Contractors, dealers and distributors should be aware that the DOE may request copies of documentation proving product sales and installations are in compliance. Records requested by DOE must be provided within 30 days.

### Training

A recorded webinar providing details about the new efficiency standards is available for viewing at <https://www.goodmanmfg.com/resources/new-efficiency-standards#north> or <https://www.amana-hac.com/resources/new-efficiency-standards#north>. Questions about the new efficiency standards can be emailed to [RegionalStandardsQuestions@goodmanmfg.com](mailto:RegionalStandardsQuestions@goodmanmfg.com).

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The information provided is a summarized overview and is not intended to provide a complete description of the DOE 2015 Regional Standards. For more information regarding the new DOE 2015 HVAC Regional Standards and the enforcement of these standards, please visit <https://www.energy.gov/gc/legal-resources/office-assistant-general-counsel-enforcement/regional-standards-enforcement>