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12-BSTD-1

DATE MAY 04 2012

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May 4, 2012

California Energy Commission (CEC)

Re: March 12, 2012 45-day Language Hearing for Nonresidential Buildings - 2013 Building Energy Efficiency Standards (AHRI Comments on §140.4(e)4; Docket # 12-BSTD-1)

Dear CEC Staff:

The Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) is the trade association representing manufacturers of heating, cooling, water heating, and commercial refrigeration equipment. Over 300 members strong, AHRI is an internationally recognized advocate for the industry, and develops standards for and certifies the performance of many of the products manufactured by our members. In North America, the annual output of the HVACR industry is worth more than \$20 billion. In the United States alone, our members employ approximately 130,000 people, and support some 800,000 dealers, contractors, and technicians.

We would like to provide some additional comments on the proposed code language in §140.4(e)4 with respect to warrantee and drive mechanism. We suggest that the code language be amended as follows:

4. Air economizers and return air dampers on an individual cooling fan system that has a design ~~supply capacity over 1,500 cfm and a total mechanical cooling capacity over 45,000 Btu/hr~~ shall have the following features:

A. **Warrantee.** ~~5-year performance-warranty of the economizer assembly by the economizer manufacturer.~~

B. **Drive mechanism.** ~~Economizer and return dampers shall have a direct drive modulating actuator with either gear driven interconnections or tiebar and crossover side interconnections. The gear or linkage interconnections shall be located out of the airstream.~~

Rationale:

The sentence “supply capacity over 1,500 cfm and a total mechanical cooling” should be removed from §140.4(e)4 because it is a non-essential requirement. The requirement should only be a function of capacity. We believe that a proposal was recently made to remove a sentence from the code language and we fully support that proposal.

A proposal was recently made to include the word “manufacturer” before “warranty” in §140.4(e)4B. Although we do not oppose the inclusion of the word manufacturer, we feel

that the proposed language could be misinterpreted, thereby laying the onus upon the wrong equipment manufacturers to meet this requirement. In order to ensure that all economizer manufacturers are covered within this requirement, it is necessary to clarify that the manufacturer who produces the economizer is responsible for providing the warranty. Additionally, the word “performance” should be removed since no test procedure or energy conservation standard currently exists for economizers.

We believe that §140.4(e)4B should be completely removed from the code language because it is overly prescriptive and redundant; the warrantee, damper reliability testing and damper leakage requirements adequately address the issue.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit comments and urge that CEC reconsider the proposed code language in §140.4(e)4 based on the issues that have been raised in this letter. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to call me at (703) 600-0383.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Aniruddh Roy
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