

DOCKETED

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July 16, 2020

Mr. Jonathan Johnson
iPermit E Raters
31225 La Baya Drive #213
Westlake Village, California 91362

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The attached iPermit E Raters' letter regarding duct testing was forwarded to the California Energy Commission (CEC) for confirmation of its guidance. Unfortunately, we have determined that statements made in this letter about our guidance are incorrect.

Current regulations found in Section 150.2 (b)1E of the 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards state:

EXCEPTION 3 to Section 150.2(b)1E: Duct Sealing. Existing duct systems constructed, insulated or sealed with asbestos.

The following statement contained in your letter is incorrect:

"This includes systems where no abatement has been determined necessary or was not part of the scope of work **as well as in situations where abatement was performed but encapsulation was part of the abatement process.**"

A duct system that has been completely remediated would no longer fall within this exemption. CEC regulations do not specify when remediation is effective. The CEC defers to the Authority Having Jurisdiction in making this determination.

The only guidance the CEC has provided on this topic can be found in the 2014 letter to homeowners (attached). It also is limited to existing systems with asbestos, but not what is to be done after removal and abatement is complete. It states:

Mr. Jonathan Johnson
July 16, 2020
Page 2

“Note that duct sealing is not required, and should not be performed, if existing ducts are constructed, insulated, or sealed with asbestos-based materials. If asbestos is suspected, contact the Contractors State Licensing Board for more information at (800) 321-2752, or obtain A Consumer's Guide to Asbestos at:
<https://www.cslb.ca.gov/Resources/GuidesAndPublications/AsbestosGuideForConsumers.pdf>.

The CEC recognizes that this is a health and safety issue and we leave it up to the Jurisdiction Having Authority to make the determination of any remaining hazard and the need for duct testing after abatement.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss these issues, please contact me at (916) 654-4928 or lorraine.white@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Lorraine White

Lorraine White, Manager
Standards Compliance Office

Attachments