

DOCKETED

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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)



Notice of Availability

Draft Staff Report: 2022 Update of the Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing Requirements

CEC-400-2022-016-SD

Docket 22-BSTD-03

Introduction

California Energy Commission (CEC) staff have published a draft staff report, which discusses existing issues with the current implementation of the Field Verification & Diagnostic Testing program and proposed amendments and additions to the Energy Code to address those issues. This draft staff report is docketed ([22-BSTD-03](#)) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=22-BSTD-03>.

Abstract of the Draft Staff Report

The Warren-Alquist Act directs the CEC to adopt and implement the Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Energy Code) as a primary means to reduce wasteful, uneconomical, and unnecessary uses of energy.

Poor installation of air ducts and conditioning equipment in residential buildings have been a concern since the 1980s. The CEC adopted provisions in the Energy Code to verify that these installations (and others) are consistent with Energy Code requirements. In 1999, the CEC promulgated the Home Energy Rating System regulations in California Code of Regulations, Title 20, sections 1670 through 1675. These regulations provide for and regulate raters to perform field verification and diagnostic testing services for installation of covered measures.

This report seeks to make changes to the field verification and diagnostic testing program to make the program more effective in ensuring compliance with the Energy Code. As California seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, among other efforts, decarbonize buildings by installing six million heat pumps in buildings by 2030, clear and effective program regulations are increasingly important.

The reliance of the field verification and diagnostic testing program on the Home Energy Rating System regulations located in Title 20 has made compliance difficult for stakeholders, who have requested simplification of the Energy Code. Other deficiencies addressed in this report include issues that staff identified through various efforts,

investigation of complaints, submissions to Docket Number 12-HERS-01, and information collected from the informal proceedings instigated by the order instituting an informational proceeding (Order Number 12-1114-6).

The scope of the changes proposed in this staff report focuses on conduct, responsibility, and quality assurance for the field verification and diagnostic testing program, as well as increased oversight by the CEC to improve program performance and protect consumers. The CEC intends to update the 2025 Energy Code with these proposed changes.

Public Comment. CEC staff invites comment on the draft staff report during a comment period from October 14, 2022, to December 2, 2022. Any person may submit written comments to the CEC for consideration during this period. The CEC appreciates receiving written comments at the earliest possible date. The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the e-commenting page for this docket [22-BSTD-03](#), at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=22-BSTD-03>. Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 20, section 1208.1. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 22-BSTD-03 in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 22-BSTD-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

In addition, CEC staff intends to conduct a workshop concerning this rulemaking and the proposals in the draft staff report. Persons who are present will be invited to make oral comments.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address if provided in a comment) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine.

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Direct news media inquiries to (916) 654-4989 or mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

If you have technical questions about this document, please contact Joe Loyer, Senior Mechanical Engineer, at (916) 237-2546 or joe.loyer@energy.ca.gov.

Document Availability: This document is available on the [Modifications to FV&DT Program Requirements](https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2025-building-energy-efficiency-0) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2025-building-energy-efficiency-0>. Staff is planning to hold a workshop concerning this document, date to be determined.

Subscription Lists: Building Standards and Title 24 Enforcement