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*Comment Received From: Jacki Donner
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HVI Comment - Title 20 Air Filter Requirements

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



10 November 2022

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
Docket No.20-AAER-02
715 P Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. 20-AAER-02, Express Terms for Air Filters, Docketed 28 October

Dear CEC Staff,

On September 13, HVI submitted a comment on the proposed Title 20 air filter language, which CEC filed as TN# 246008. HVI's comment requested that the definition of "air filter" be modified to clarify that the scope of CEC's proposed regulatory language excludes air filters that serve residential ventilation systems. This interpretation aligns with the original scope of the proposed regulatory language, docketed on March 24, as follows:

"Air filter" means an air-cleaning device installed in forced-air heating or cooling equipment and used for removing particulate matter from the air and designed for installation in residential ducted forced-air heating or cooling systems.

Additionally, this interpretation was confirmed through consultation with CEC staff. Following is the simple modification that HVI proposed to clarify CEC's intent:

"Air filter" means a disposable or reusable air-cleaning device with air filtering media encased in a frame of a nominal depth of no greater than 6.0 inches used for removing particulate matter from the air and designed for installation in residential ducted forced-air ~~ventilation~~, heating or cooling systems.

(1) Air filter does not include:

- (A) Electronic air cleaners;*
- (B) Filter media sold as rolls, i.e. not encased in a frame;*
- (C) Air filters designed and sold exclusively for installation in products other than residential ducted forced-air heating or cooling systems.*

After submitting this comment, CEC modified the definition of "air filter" in the Express Terms as follows:

"Air filter" means a disposable or reusable air-cleaning device with filtering media encased in a frame of a nominal depth of no greater than 6.0 inches used for removing particulate matter from the air and designed for installation in residential ducted systems.

(1) Air filter does not include:

- (A) Electronic air cleaners;*
- (B) Filter media sold as rolls, i.e. not encased in a frame;*

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(C) Air filters designed and sold exclusively for installation in products other than residential ducted systems.

While this language is an improvement, it is still unclear for the casual reader whether ducted residential ventilation systems would be considered “residential ducted systems” and would therefore need to comply with the proposed air filter requirements. “Ducted system” is defined in Title 20 §1602. Presumably, CEC intends to reference this definition by using this term. However, the full description of the term “ducted system” is “ducted system of a federally regulated consumer product,” as follows:

“Ducted system” of a federally regulated consumer product means an air conditioner or heat pump that is designed to be permanently installed equipment and delivers conditioned air to the indoor space through a duct(s). The air conditioner or heat pump may be either a split-system or a single-package unit.

If the long version of this defined term is referenced in the definition of “air filter” as follows, this will help to clarify CEC’s intent that air filters serving HVI-Certified residential ventilating systems, which are not federally regulated consumer products, are excluded from the scope of the proposed regulation:

“Air filter” means a disposable or reusable air-cleaning device with filtering media encased in a frame of a nominal depth of no greater than 6.0 inches used for removing particulate matter from the air and designed for installation in a residential ducted systems of a federally regulated consumer product.

(1) Air filter does not include:

(A) Electronic air cleaners;

(B) Filter media sold as rolls, i.e. not encased in a frame;

(C) Air filters designed and sold exclusively for installation in a products other than a residential ducted systems of a federally regulated consumer product.

Additionally, CEC may wish to expand the definition of “ducted system of a federally regulated consumer product” to also address forced-air furnaces at a minimum, as the intent of this rulemaking is to address air filters serving not only air conditioners and heat pumps but also forced-air furnaces.

Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Kind regards,



Jacki Donner, CEO