

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Matt Ernst
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Removal of HERS Field Verifications is plain stupid

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [Matt Ernst](#)
To: [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)
Subject: Removal of HERS Field Verifications is plain stupid
Date: Monday, March 20, 2023 12:21:39 PM

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I have worked as a HERS rater for over 13 years. The amount of dangerous or just plain terrible HVAC installations I have seen is appalling. I have helped thousands of homeowners with their HVAC systems meeting compliance. When I say helped thousands, I am not exaggerating. And when I say helped I don't mean to make sure their system is 'good'. When I say I have helped, I mean that their system was installed so bad that they were pulling CO2 into their house from the garage, their leakage was often above 1000cfm (do you even know what that means? 2.5 tons of air loss), the returns are often so small that they suffocate the unit reducing the life of the air handler and not properly heating/cooling the house, returns are often pulling air from the attic or worse the garage, and many other common mistakes made by installing companies.

I have seen HVAC systems installed backwards so that the supply was returning air to the air handler instead of servicing the house. Yes! Multiple houses had the units installed with the return and supply reversed. I have seen countless AC units with no refrigerant charge. I have worked with installing companies that initially did bad work but with my help improved and now do very good installs.

The impact of the HERS field verification is often overlooked by homeowners. It is a thankless job and clearly the CEC does not understand the importance of HERS raters checking HVAC companies.

I can't imagine what kind of terrible installs will happen without us. Actually, I know exactly what will happen. I already see it, but we make them fix it. Homeowners are often left without help on a bad install. If you require HERS paperwork in order to final installs, it forces the bad installers to correct dangerous installs and protect the homeowner. That is the power that HERS raters have; to put pressure on installing companies to fix bad installs. I use that power as a service to the homeowners and to force HVAC companies to comply with the changing standards.

I hope you reconsider instead of move backwards.

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