

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Home Energy &&&& Labeling Program Updates Pre-Rulemaking
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<b>Document Title:</b>	HERS Whole-House Program Advisory
<b>Description:</b>	CEC-issued advisory for the HERS Whole-House Program.
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**Regulatory Advisory  
August 28, 2023**

**California Home Energy Rating System:  
Whole-House Home Energy and Labeling Program**

**Background**

California Public Resources Code Section 25942 requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to establish criteria for adopting a statewide home energy rating program for residential dwellings. The Home Energy and Labeling Program (more commonly referred to as the voluntary HERS Whole-House Program) would provide homeowners with consistent, accurate, and uniform ratings of their home's energy efficiency based on a single statewide rating system. These ratings are to be used as the basis for recommending cost-effective energy efficiency improvements and estimated associated potential cost savings. In 1999, the CEC established the basic administrative framework for the HERS Whole-House Program in Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations under the umbrella of the overall California Home Energy Rating System (HERS). In 2009, the CEC revised these regulations defining the requirements for HERS Whole-House Home Energy Ratings.

Section 25942(c) of the California Public Resources Code provides that it is unlawful to perform home energy rating services in California without CEC certification. In the interest of transparency, the CEC may only certify an entity to perform home energy rating services pursuant to the application and review process established in Title 20, Sections 1670 through 1675 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 1674(f) specifies when a certified HERS Whole-House Program must be recertified. Pursuant to these regulations, certification or recertification of a home energy rating system program requires a vote of the Commission at a duly noticed business meeting.

In 2013, the CEC certified CalCERTS, Inc. as a HERS Whole-House Program provider to train, certify, and oversee whole-house raters. No other providers have been certified by the CEC, nor has the CEC certified any changes to CalCERTS' original 2013 HERS Whole-House Program (i.e., changes to their whole-house home energy rating software or changes that would reflect updates to the California Energy Code). CalCERTS' certified status as an approved California HERS Whole-House Program provider remains in effect.

## **Official Guidance**

Since 2013, CalCERTS has been, and remains, the only HERS Whole House Program provider certified to operate in California. As specified in Section 25942(c) of the California Public Resources Code, it is unlawful to perform whole-house home energy rating services in California without explicit CEC certification. Any entity providing such services without certification is operating in violation of California law. Any changes to an approved program subsequent to obtaining certification require recertification by the CEC.

The CEC has initiated a pre-rulemaking to update the California HERS Whole-House Program and opened an associated docket, 23-HERS-02, to facilitate data gathering, stakeholder input, and comments related to the HERS Whole-House Program. This proceeding is entirely separate from California's mandatory Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing (FV&DT) Program, which will be addressed in an upcoming Title 24 rulemaking considering updates to the California Energy Code. CalCERTS remains approved by the CEC to register compliance documents for California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards (also called the Energy Code) for the 2005, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022 code cycles. CHEERS remains approved by the CEC to register compliance documents for California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards for the 2013, 2016, 2019, and 2022 code cycles.

## **Further Information**

For additional information or questions, please contact the California Energy Code Title 24 Hotline at 1-800-772-3300, toll-free in California, or via email at [Title24@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Title24@energy.ca.gov). Information on additional aspects of California's HERS Program can be found at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/home-energy-rating-system-hers-program>.