



AHRI Changes to 3rd Party Coil Ratings

A key decision has been made in reference to 3rd party coil ratings. The ruling will affect current 3rd party coil performance ratings, including tax credit eligible ratings.

On June 26th, the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) implemented a change that will affect many 3rd party or Independent Coil Manufacturers' ratings with our equipment. The new ruling states that the 3rd party coil ratings cannot exceed our equivalent ratings by greater 6%. Any ratings greater than 6% above our comparable system rating must be rerated or removed from the AHRI database by July 15, 2009.

For example, an Trane outdoor + Trane furnace + 3rd party coil rating greater than 6% above a comparable Trane matched system will be disqualified under the June 26th AHRI ruling. For the 3rd party coil ratings to qualify for the US Federal Tax Credit ratings, our equivalent system rating must be greater than or equal to 15.1 SEER/12.25 EER for ACs and 14.15 SEER/11.8 EER for HPs.

The 3rd party coil manufacturers are responsible for the ratings changes or removal. A full list of affected ratings will be provided when available from the 3rd party coil manufacturers. There will still be tax credit eligible ratings available after this change; however the overall quantity of eligible systems will be less. The ruling only affects system ratings with 3rd party coils. There will be no change to Trane's complete system ratings.

For overall system reliability, customer satisfaction, and qualifying for the Federal Tax Credits, we recommend selling and installing a matched Trane system. If the desired air conditioning system does not meet the 16 SEER and 13 EER efficiency levels, dealers can still deliver a reliable tax credit qualified system by including Trane's XV95 or XC95 furnaces.

This change is happening rapidly. Please be aware of the impending change and its affects on your business. We will communicate more details as they become available.

For questions on this topic, please contact us.

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The official note from AHRI reads:

“Effective July 15, 2009, coil-only ratings in the AHRI Directory of Certified Product Performance will be limited to coil-only ratings developed from system manufacturers' highest sales volume tested combinations (HSVTC) and cannot be more than 6 percent greater than the HSVTC. Mix-match coil-blower combinations will be delisted unless the manufacturer listing the system either manufactures the coil-blower unit or the system is rated no more than 6 percent greater than the clearly specified system manufacturer's certified combination. These changes will remain in effect until the Unitary Small Equipment Section's certification program Operations Manual is revised to address the issues in the mix-match coil Coil-Blower certification program.

What this means for system manufacturers and independent coil manufacturers (ICMs) is that by July 15, 2009, they will be responsible for reviewing their listings in the AHRI Directory to determine if they comply with the 6 percent threshold. If they do not comply, they must be re-rated or they will be delisted. The words "clearly specified" in the above statement mean that records between system manufacturers and ICMs must exactly match - i.e., the furnace, air-handler and condensing unit model numbers must exactly match.

This proactive step was taken to protect the integrity of the overall AHRI certification program, which is the benchmark for HVACR certification programs worldwide.”