

ENERGY STAR® Quality Installation Program

Contractor Guide



- Program Description and Objectives
- Contractor Performance Bonus
- Tool Discounts
- And Other Important Information!

Program Overview

The ENERGY STAR® Quality Installation Program (ENERGY STAR QI) is one of many strategies that Southern California Edison is utilizing to achieve reductions in cooling energy, specifically addressing peak energy demand in Southern California.

The program:

- promotes your business
- distinguishes you from your competition by increasing skills and competencies
- generates leads (e.g., your company name appears on the A/C Quality website)
- enables you to close more sales opportunities
- helps you earn up to \$5,000 in COOP marketing funds
- provides Contractor Performance Bonus funds for qualifying tools and equipment

Southern California Edison provides a rebate of up to \$2,000 to customers and additional incentives to contractors after residential air conditioning equipment is correctly installed. Homeowners also receive an ENERGY STAR certificate for their qualifying installation.

Equipment Type	Level	SEER	EER	HSPF	Rebate [†]
Split Central Air Conditioner	Tier 1 - Minimum	14.5	12	-	\$1,000
	Tier 2 - Minimum	16	13	-	\$1,250
	Tier 3 - Minimum	18	13	-	\$2,000
Packaged Central Air Conditioner*	Tier 1 - Minimum	14	11	-	\$1,000
	Tier 2 - Minimum	14	12	-	\$1,250
Split Heat Pump**	Tier 1 - Minimum	14.5	12	8.2	\$1,000
	Tier 2 - Minimum	15	12.5	8.5	\$1,250
Packaged Heat Pump**	Tier 1 - Minimum	14	11	8	\$1,000
	Tier 2 - Minimum	14	12	8	\$1,250

[†]Rebates on this chart effective as of 4/1/2011

*AC Units must meet both SEER and EER minimum requirements per equipment tier to qualify for rebate.

**Heat Pump Units must meet SEER, EER, and HSPF minimum requirements per equipment tier to qualify for rebate.

Homeowners who participate in the Energy Star Quality Installation Program can also qualify for an additional \$500 rebate by addressing significant air distribution issues within their duct system. Proper duct design using Manual D contributes to even air distribution creating greater comfort and increased system performance.

Manual D Rebate	
ACCA-Manual D Duct Design and Verification	\$500*

*This Rebate is in addition to the Energy Star Quality Installation (ESQI) Rebates. To qualify for this rebate, the homeowners new equipment installation must meet all Program Guidelines and be approved by ESQI Program Management. The ACCA Manual D Duct Design and Verification Rebate is not a standalone Rebate.

Why this program?

Residential air conditioner installations grew rapidly over the past three decades.

Percentage of New Homes with Central Air Conditioning	
1976	25%
2010	more than 95%

Unfortunately, installation practices suffered as the AC industry struggled to provide qualified technicians capable of satisfying the increased demand. Studies show that 30-50% of new central air conditioning installations are improperly installed. Despite improvements in AC product standards in recent years, improper sizing or installation of air conditioners can reduce performance by as much as 30%.

- **Failure to insure quality at the time of installation** results in a 20% increase in the energy required to meet customer needs for cooling and comfort on hot summer afternoons.
- **Preventive maintenance is rarely performed** by end-users, further contributing to the poor energy performance of installed equipment.

Quality HVAC installation is currently the exception, not the norm. Studies estimate that more than 50% of air conditioners in U.S. homes perform below their rated efficiencies due to improper installation. In addition, 62 percent are improperly charged, 50 percent are oversized, and 70 percent lack proper airflow over the coil. Changing this situation will require a major transformation.

Objectives

Through the ENERGY STAR QI Program, homeowners will be provided with cost-effective energy saving strategies while improving the comfort of their homes.

The ENERGY STAR QI program seeks to:

- 1) improve current AC installation practices to deliver greater energy efficiency to customers cooling their homes
- 2) Reduce peak electricity loads for Southern California Edison.

Eligibility

This program applies to residential installations of central air conditioning (CAC) systems and air-source heat pump systems with a rated capacity up to 65,000 BTU/H. A rebate will be available to homeowners who have a system installed in accordance with the ENERGY STAR Quality Installation Guidelines. Installation requirements are detailed in *ANSI/ACCA 5 QI-2007: AC Quality Installation Specification*. Although the program does not require contractors to install ENERGY STAR qualified equipment, the program will pay three levels of rebates to customers based on the efficiency rating of the installed equipment.

The ENERGY STAR QI Program is for:

- replacement systems in existing homes and new construction for Southern California Edison residential customers with active meters
- homes with multiple zones requiring multiple AC systems each system must be verified as a separate unit

All eligible systems must be installed:

- 1) in accordance with the ENERGY STAR Quality Installation Guidelines as outlined in the “Technical Review” section of the program manual
- 2) by a program-trained technician, employed by a participating company, working as — or for — a state-licensed contractor

Welcome to the program! Program staff members are available to help you with technical questions, as well as administrative or procedural steps.

Web: www.ac-quality.com

Phone: 800-378-7503

