

Hello Rachel,

As an employee of a large manufacturer of HVAC equipment, I can say that I agree with your draft proposition for the implementation of standard criteria to guide residential air conditioning practices. Energy Star is an important program deserving of our best attention.

I'm not a stakeholder in the sense that I do not officially represent my company, however, I have one viewpoint that I think should be added to your discussion. That is, for many years it has been common practice for builders of residential housing to utilize equipment meant for human comfort conditioning as temporary construction heaters when construction occurs in the winter months. By starting the furnaces shortly after installation, the finishing trades can better apply their drywall mud and other compounds that need room temperature for curing. Unfortunately, these finishing compounds lead to huge volumes of dust and dirt that contaminate the air inside the building. Not only is air for combustion purposes compromised by this practice, but blower wheels, blower motors, tertiary heat exchangers and evaporator coils are coated with choking dust. Units exposed to such rigors do not work efficiently and early failure is assured. Blower wheels coated with drywall dust cannot move the rated amounts of air efficiently. Blower wheels coated with drywall dust are often out of balance and, apart from causing excessive noise, often vibrate themselves into failure in short order.

Since many furnaces become air handlers for cooling systems, it is imperative that the practice of utilizing central heating furnaces as temporary construction heaters be banned entirely. The furnace should not be started until construction has reached "carpet stage." Perhaps you have finished taking submissions, but I hope you will have some time for my point of view. Thank you.

Regards,

Ian McTeer
Field Service Representative
Trane Canada DSO
416.494.2855 x 224
416.494.0565 Fax
416.723.0811 Cell
1.877.462.8337 Toll-Free