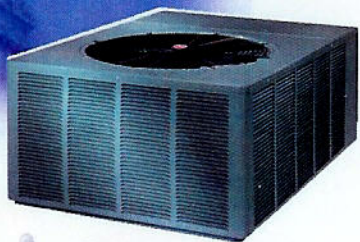




*Understanding the New 2006  
Federal Minimum Energy  
Efficiency Standard for  
Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps*

**Homeowner Guide**



*relax*

It's Rheem®

## What is the New Energy Efficiency Law and When Does It Go Into Effect?

New US Department of Energy and Natural Resources Canada federal regulations require that all\* air conditioning and heat pump products manufactured after January 22, 2006 for use in the United States and Canada be rated 13-SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio\*\*) or higher. The current 10 SEER minimum efficiency standard was enacted in 1992.

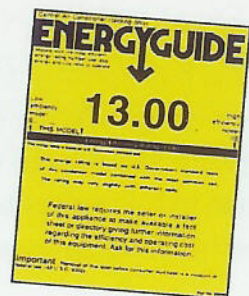
\* Applies to all systems less than 65,000 btuh using "single-phase" voltage – this is the electrical voltage supply that is standard in most residential and small commercial buildings.

\*\* Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio is the standard used to measure the efficiency of central air conditioners and heat pumps. Products with higher SEER ratings are more energy efficient.

## Why Did the US and Canada Raise Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards?

The US and Canadian federal government regulations are designed to dramatically reduce national energy consumption. The new standard approximates a 30% increase in the minimum air conditioning and heat pump efficiency over the current standard. The US Department of Energy estimates that these new household regulations will save more than \$19 billion in energy by 2030 and 25 quadrillion btu's of energy . . . enough to light all US cities for 20 years.

The US DOE has also increased minimum energy requirements for residential water heaters, some commercial heating and cooling equipment, residential clothes washers, refrigerators, room air conditioners, and fluorescent lamp ballasts.



## How Does The New Law Affect Homeowners?

The new federal standard only applies to air conditioning and heat pump products manufactured after January 22, 2006. Homeowners and businesses are NOT REQUIRED to replace their existing HVAC equipment that is below the new minimum efficiency standard. You can continue to use your current system as long as you choose, even though your system is below new federal minimum energy standard.

## How Long Will Current AC and Heat Pump Products Below 13-SEER Be Available?

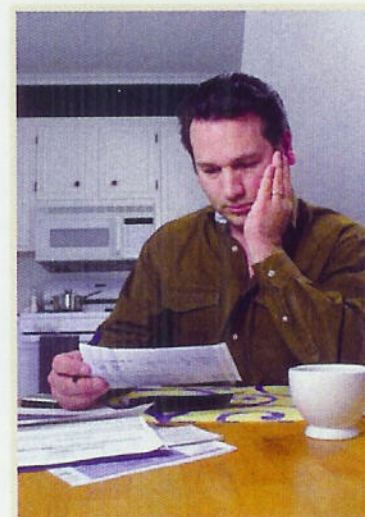
Some HVAC Distributors, Dealers, Contractors and Homebuilders will continue to sell and install 10, 11, and 12-SEER products manufactured prior to January 23, 2006 as long as supplies last.

## Are AC and Heat Pump Products Manufactured Outside the US and Canada Required to Comply with the new Federal Regulation?

Yes. All manufacturers of air conditioners and heat pumps imported into the US and Canada after January 22, 2006 must meet the new US and Canadian federal minimum efficiency standard.

## Will the New 13-SEER Products Cost More?

A new 13-SEER product will cost more than most lower SEER products that do not meet the new standard. It is estimated that some manufacturers will use up to 30% more material in their products to meet the new regulation making many of the new energy-efficient products larger, heavier, and more costly to manufacture and transport.



## How Much Larger Are the New 13-SEER AC and Heat Pump Units?

Many manufacturers are significantly increasing the size of their indoor air handlers and coils as well as their outdoor units to meet the new standard.

This is due to the need for expanded coil surfaces. Because of the increase of overall system size, including the indoor coil and air handler, some manufacturer's outdoor condensing units are becoming so tall that location of the system could obscure low windows or become an eyesore. The new Rheem 13-SEER models feature a low profile, compact design that is smaller than most manufacturer's pre-regulation 12-SEER products.



## What Will I Get For My Money?

A new 13-SEER system is about 30% more energy efficient than 10-SEER systems and about 8% more efficient than 12-SEER systems. Energy savings will exceed 30% for 8-SEER systems manufactured before 1992.\* A Rheem dealer can help calculate your actual energy savings. **Visit [www.rheemac.com](http://www.rheemac.com) or call 1-800-548-RHEEM for a Rheem dealer near you.**

*\*Actual energy savings varies with the type of structure, installation, age, condition, and SEER rating of the products being replaced.*



## Can't I Just Replace the Failed Outdoor Equipment and Leave the Indoor Coil, Air Handler, or Furnace As It Is?

Yes, but only with the same SEER-rated outdoor model that is being replaced. If a 13-SEER or higher model is selected, it **may not** be matched with existing system components that are not rated by the manufacturer to achieve a 13-SEER system efficiency rating. **The indoor coil must be one that is rated with the outdoor unit.** Failure to install a matched system that complies with the minimum regulation will result in lower efficiencies than required by law, lower system capacities, and product performance issues that can reduce system life.

## Should I Buy A System That Meets The New Standard If I Need A Replacement Now?

You may continue to purchase currently available products. If you are considering the purchase of a new air conditioner or heat pump today, it may make sense to buy a 13-or higher SEER product if appropriate for your application. Your Rheem Dealer can assist you with reviewing and understanding your best options.

## Just Because 13 SEER is the Minimum Standard; Should I Settle for That for My Home or Business?

Increasing numbers of homes and businesses are choosing air conditioning and heat pump systems with SEER ratings of 14-SEER and higher. As with most consumer goods, Rheem has a range of products to fit every need and budget. And, while the initial cost of 14 to 18-SEER products is higher compared to 10, 11, 12, or 13-SEER models, the lifetime energy savings, operating costs, and enhanced comfort features make higher SEER Rheem products an option worth serious consideration.

Higher SEER systems provide exceptional operating efficiency, quiet operation, and additional comfort advantages derived from optimized matches of the outdoor half to the indoor half of a unitary split system. The advanced designs of many Rheem *Classic* and *Prestige Series* models feature variable speed technology that provides humidity management when the conditioned space is fitted with a humidistat. These advanced systems can also be designed with indoor air quality features that circulate fresh air as well as clean the air. This helps reduce dust mites, pollen, microorganisms, and other air-borne pollutants and allergens. This feature is especially important for young children, elderly, allergy sufferers, and in homes where pets are present.

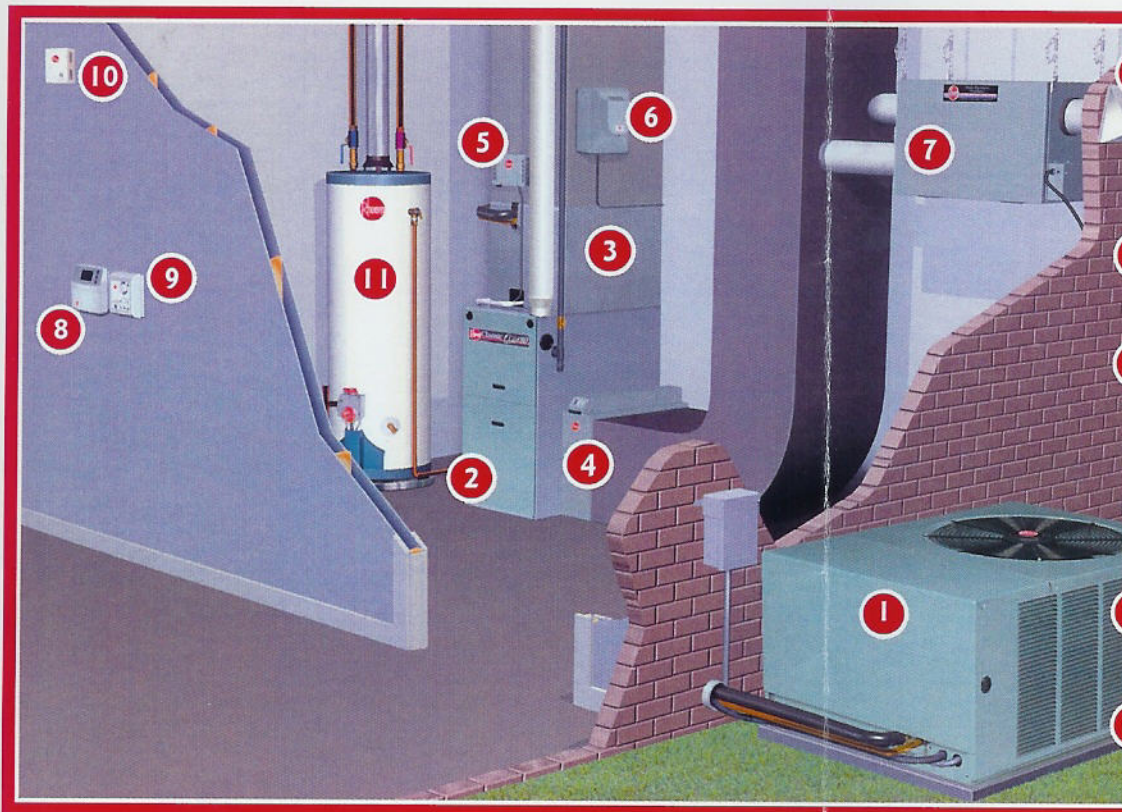
Talk to a Rheem dealer about the health and comfort features available in 14 to 18-SEER models that can be tailored to deliver:

- low utility bills
- quiet operation
- optimized humidity management
- cleaner indoor air and dust control
- environment-friendly refrigerants
- advanced programmable system control for customized comfort
- limited lifetime warranties and extended warranty options
- service and routine maintenance programs to maximize product life

## Rheem, a Complete Home Comfort System

You will find it comforting to know that in addition to keeping your home at a preferred temperature, dependable Rheem equipment can also help you elevate your home's entire indoor air quality (IAQ). Our humidifier can help reduce or add humidity to benefit your health and protect your valuable home furnishings. Our electronic air cleaner helps make your home smell better, reduces dust and allows you to breathe easier.

Ask your dealer about the many Rheem options and accessories that can elevate the quality of air in your home to make it a healthier place to live.



Rheem has a full line of high efficiency products  
available today from 10 SEER to 18 SEER

for every need and budget.



## FEATURES

- 1 RHEEM OUTDOOR UNIT.** AC and Heat Pump models, with efficiencies ranging from 10 SEER and above. Your dealer can help determine the best system for your needs.
- 2 RHEEM INDOOR UNIT.** Rheem produces the industry's most complete line of quality gas furnaces and air handlers to complete your home comfort system.
- 3 RHEEM INDOOR COIL.** It works with the outdoor unit to keep homes comfortable at low cost.
- 4 ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANER.** It collects dust and other particulates to keep the air your family breathes cleaner and healthier.
- 5 UV SYSTEMS.** These special ultra-violet lights are effective in controlling allergens caused by viruses, bacteria, yeast and mold that may be in the home.
- 6 HUMIDIFIER.** Adding humidification will reduce energy costs and static electricity.
- 7 ERV AND HRV SYSTEMS.** The Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) and Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV) are fresh air exchange appliances that take fresh air into a dwelling and expel stale, polluted air while controlling humidity and minimizing heat loss.
- 8 THERMOSTAT.** A Rheem thermostat provides year-round temperature control for total home comfort.
- 9 ERV/HRV WATT CONTROL.** ERV/HRV systems can be purchased with options including a dehumidistat and pollutant sensor.
- 10 CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM WITH TWO STAGE ALARM.**
  1. A warning alarm: CO is building up but homeowner has time to identify and correct problem.
  2. A danger alarm: CO has accumulated to a dangerous level and homeowner must get out now.
- 11 WATER HEATERS.** Rheem produces more water heaters than any other manufacturer. For information log on to [www.Rheem.com](http://www.Rheem.com)

*Resources On The Web:*

For information about the US and Canadian  
Federal 13 SEER Minimum Efficiency Regulation,  
visit the following links:

**[www.RheemAC.com](http://www.RheemAC.com)**

**[www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)**

**[www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca) (Canada)**

**[www.ari.org](http://www.ari.org)**

**[www.hrai.ca](http://www.hrai.ca) (Canada)**

**[www.acca.org](http://www.acca.org)**



**[www.RheemAC.com](http://www.RheemAC.com)**

**800-548-Rheem**

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"In keeping with its policy of continuous progress and product improvement,  
Rheem reserves the right to make changes without notice."

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