

Single-Phase Split-System Heat Pumps

REGULATORY PROPOSAL

PREPARED BY:
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B.C. MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION¹
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COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY [OCTOBER 5], 2022

Contents:

<i>Proposed Changes to the Single-phase Split-system heat pump Standard</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Contact Information</i>	<i>3</i>

¹ For more information on the role of the Energy Efficiency Branch, see
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/energy-efficiency-conservation>

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SINGLE-PHASE SPLIT-SYSTEM HEAT PUMP STANDARD

TYPE OF DEVICE	<p>“Single-phase split-system heat pump” means a heat pump that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is a split-system, b) uses a single-phase electric current, and c) rated at a capacity of less than 19 kW (65 000 BTU/h);
ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARD (PROPOSED CHANGE)	The proposed change is to remove the energy performance standard for single-phase split-system heat pumps.
EFFECTIVE DATE	The proposed date for the removal of the standard is January 1, 2023.
HARMONIZATION	This update is being proposed to prevent unnecessary regulatory burden and trade restrictions. Products will continue to be subject to the federal Energy Efficiency Regulation but will not be subject to the B.C. Energy Efficiency Standards Regulation.
NEED FOR REGULATION	<p>The Ministry reviews existing standards and proposes changes to reduce regulatory burden when applicable. This standard will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mitigate regulatory certification burden on manufacturers by exempting products that are federally certified. b) Facilitate access to broader heat pump market by mitigating trade restrictions. c) Alleviate potential cost increase caused by lack of supply. d) Improve energy performance of the split-system heat pumps which results in heating and cooling cost reduction for residential building owners. e) Support CleanBC commitments to make new space and water heating equipment more efficient by increasing efficiency standards (2.3 Buildings).
TRANSPARENT REGULATION DEVELOPMENT	Public review and stakeholder consultation will be open for [21-days] after the publication of this document. Stakeholder consultation will be followed by regulatory drafting and submission of amendments to Cabinet for approval.
ACCEPTANCE	Market acceptance of single-phase split system heat pumps is on the rise and continues to improve. Heat pump technology has improved such that high operating cost, poor performance and noise are no longer major concerns. The proposed change is not expected to change market acceptance of the technology.

MARKET TRANSFORMATION	<p>Market transformation programs for heat pumps have started in BC in 2008.</p> <p>Currently, there are three types of heat pump incentive available to the homeowners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provincial incentives are available through CleanBC better homes. The rebates vary based on heat pump type, location, and homeowner income. The available rebate is between \$1,000 to \$9,500. b) Federal incentives are available through Greener Homes Grant and can be granted up to \$5,000. c) Municipality top ups are available for participating municipalities. These rebates are limited and has a range between \$350 to \$6,000. <p>All CleanBC incentives are for products with higher performance than the proposed standard.</p> <p>This regulatory proposal will mitigate the expected market disruption and loss of program participation that would occur if the standard isn't updated to maintain harmonization.</p>
AVAILABILITY	<p>Availability of single-phase split system heat pumps is on the rise and continues to improve. This proposal will prevent unnecessary regulatory burden on manufacturer and assure the availability of the product in BC market.</p>
IMPACT ON CONSUMERS	<p>The proposed change will ensure consumers continue to have access to all single-phase split system heat pumps in the North American market.</p>
IMPACT ON MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS	<p>The proposed changes will mitigate certification burden on single-phase split system heat pumps that would be created when the US DOE and the Canadian federal regulation switch to the new metric.</p>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DATE	<p>September 14, 2022</p>