



State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

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Subject: RESIDENTIAL CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING DEER2026 EUL UPDATE

Summary

While the central air conditioning effective useful life (EUL) was not studied in the 2023 Residential HVAC and DHW Measure Effective Useful Life Study¹, the CPUC has updated the 'HV-ResAC' EUL from 15 years to 23 years effective for DEER2026 measure packages.

Background:

This guidance document provides background information on the DEER2026 EUL update for residential central air conditioner. The 2023 Residential HVAC and DHW Measure Effective Useful Life Study did not study central air

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https://www.calmac.org/%5C%5C//publications/CPUC_Group_A_2023_Res_HVAC_and_DHW_EUL_Study_Final_Report.pdf

conditioners, but the 2023 Commercial HVAC and DHW Measure Effective Useful Life Study² did evaluate commercial central air conditioners. The 2023 Commercial HVAC and DHW Measure Effective Useful Life Study found the commercial central air conditioners EUL was equal to the HVAC heat pump EUL for DEER2026 at 20 years. Additionally, the CPUC and consultants reviewed other studies, including those from the Department of Energy, which corroborated air conditioner EULs to be no less than heat pump EULs. As a result of further investigation, the CPUC believes the residential air conditioner EUL should be updated to be equal to the evaluated residential heat pump EULs that were studied in the 2023 Residential HVAC and DHW Measure Effective Useful Life Study.

The CPUC has discretion to change measure parameters. There is no reason to believe that residential heat pumps last longer than air conditioners. For this reason, the CPUC is enforcing an update to the residential air conditioner EUL (EUL ID: HV-ResAC) to 23 years effective January 1, 2026. Measure packages impacted by this update should be revised in the applicable narrative section(s), permutation fields, and RACC-FSC v3.0 fields. Current deemed measure packages that are impacted by this update are listed below:

Measure Package ID	Measure Package Title
SWHC027	Package Terminal Air Conditioner or Heat Pump, Under 24 kBtu/hr
SWHC049	Ducted AC and HP HVAC Equipment, Residential
SWHC059	Smart Fan Controller, Residential
SWSV014	Lifecycle Refrigerant Management, Residential

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<https://pda.energydataweb.com/api/view/3980/CPUC%20Group%20A%202023%20Commercial%20HVAC%20and%20Water%20Heating%20EUL%20Study%20Final%20Report.pdf>