



2012 DOE Requirement Overview

Commercial Boilers – 300-2500 MBH

Minimum Thermal Efficiency is raised to 80% for all gas fired hot water, 77% for natural draft steam, 79% for "power gas" steam, 82% for oil fired hot water, and 81% for oil fired steam equipment.

Effective March 1, 2012

Residential Boilers – Under 300 MBH

Minimum AFUE efficiency is raised to 82% for all gas fired hot water, 80% for gas steam, 84% for oil fired hot water, and 82% for oil fired steam equipment.

Effective Sept. 1, 2012

All residential control strategies will be required to have an automatic means of adjusting water temperature based on "inferred heat load."

But just what do "automatic means of adjusting water temperature" and "inferred heat load" mean? The DOE language says that:

- A. The means for adjusting water temperature must automatically adjust the temperature of the water supplied by the boiler to ensure that an incremental change in inferred heat load produces a corresponding incremental change in the temperature of water supplied.
- B. For boilers that fire at a single input rate, the automatic means for adjusting water temperature requirement may be satisfied by providing an automatic means that allows the burner or heating element to fire only when the means has determined that the inferred heat load cannot be met by the residual heat of the water in the system.
- C. When there is no inferred heat load with respect to a hot water boiler, the automatic means described in this paragraph shall limit the temperature of the water in the boiler to not more than 140 degrees Fahrenheit.