

MADISON AIR

Regulatory Update

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Achieving Title 24 Compliance for Controlled Environment Horticulture

The 2022 California Energy Code came into effect on January 1, 2023 with new regulations for the Controlled Environment Horticulture (CEH) market. Updates include clearly defined growing spaces with refined energy efficiency standards for dehumidification and conditioning, as well as grow lighting.

Of particular interest to Madison Air were the new requirements placed on equipment used to condition indoor growing spaces. Section 120.6 (h) places restrictions on the amount of annual energy used as dehumidification reheat, restricts desiccants to applications with dewpoints of 50F or less and establishes minimum energy efficiency requirements for stand a-lone dehumidifiers. The last requirement is of particular interest to the Maidson Air brand, Quest.

Prior to the adoption of 2022 Energy Code, no efficiency standard existed for dehumidifiers built for commercial, industrial or agricultural applications. While several parties worked to develop a set of rules for dehumidifiers, the State of California decided to adopt the regulations found in 10 CFR 430.32(v)2 to be certain they do not pre-empt federal regulation.

Adoption of regulations originally developed for residential (i.e. consumer product) dehumidifiers led to a fair amount of confusion in the CEH industry. In particular, it means that the two classifications of dehumidifiers existed: “portable” and “whole-home”. While



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these titles do not make much sense to a cannabis or lettuce farmer, the category definitions apply. Any unit installed with ductwork would be a “whole-home” unit and subject to the whole-home testing standards and efficiency levels. Likewise, a unit hung in the indoor garden space without ductwork would be considered “portable”.

To assist the California indoor agriculture community and the A/E community that supports them, Quest developed an extensive compilation of information on how to comply with the new rules. The introductory page,

[California Title 24 Updates](#), provides an introduction to the new rules along with new definitions developed for greenhouses, indoor growing and integrated HVAC systems, which are the units built by Quest’s sister company, [Agronomics IQ](#).

The page also provides a comprehensive explanation of the portable and whole home categories, including the minimum efficiency requirements of both and the Quest units that comply. Using Quest’s patented [M-CoRR technology](#), most units easily exceeded the new requirements.

A second webpage provides Quest’s customers with a [California Title 24 Compliance Checklist](#). This quickly walks a CEH farmer through the questions they need to ask their contractor to assure they are complying with all of the rules in the 2022 Energy Code.



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Finally, there is a [FAQ's](#) page to answer the most common questions posed to Quest staff. Since the indoor agriculture community of California was not subject to the regulation prior to 1/1/2023, you can imagine the number of questions they have.

For further information, we encourage you to review the Quest Title 24 compliance website and visit the [California Energy Commission's website](#) to download a copy of the 2022 Energy Code to read the regulations yourself.



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