



October 10, 2018

**Dear Participating Contractors and Interested Parties:**

**New UEF Water Heater Rating Metric**

Recently, the Department of Energy changed testing procedures and rating standards for water heaters which will affect how water heater efficiencies are labeled. This changes the efficiency listing from Energy Factor (EF) to Uniform Energy Factor (UEF). This effort was undertaken to:

1. Define a consistent standard among all groups of residential water heater equipment
2. Simplify water heater selections with uniform ranking units
3. Accurately reflect real-world use patterns and scenarios

The industry has made the following efforts to implement these changes:

- Beginning 12/29/2017 manufacturers were required to test and provide labeling for new units produced using the UEF testing protocol.
- The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) converted all listed DWH equipment from EF to UEF. The AHRI directory listing UEF's of all available water heaters is available at [www.ahridirectory.org](http://www.ahridirectory.org).

**Program Impact**

**Efficiency Requirements**

The Eligible Measures and Accessories list has been updated and refers contractors to the [ENERGY STAR® Water Heater Key Product Criteria](#) for minimum efficiency requirements. Read this carefully as some new terms were introduced when determining the appropriate unit to install.

**New Terms**

Draw Patterns - The UEF testing protocol adopted more realistic hot water usage patterns that include length, flow rate, and number of draws, and is categorized as:

Draw Pattern	Usage
Very Small	Not included in ENERGY STAR® Program
Low	Not included in ENERGY STAR® Program
Medium	55 gallons / household / day
High	84 gallons / household / day

Tank Size - The UEF testing protocol defines energy efficiency requirements based on the size of a storage tanks water heater. The two size categories each incorporate Draw Pattern usage.

DWH type and size choices are based on household size, number and type of fixtures using hot water, and usage patterns. Many manufactures offer sizing calculators that incorporate these factors to assist with equipment selection, or refer to [ENERGY.GOV Sizing a New Water Heater](http://ENERGY.GOV Sizing a New Water Heater) for guidance.

**Energy Modeling**

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Contractors

While the industry has made changes as mentioned above, additional time may be needed to incorporate UEF into energy modeling software. This may require users to convert UEF values for proposed water heaters to EF values in the energy modeling software. Users should consult with their software vendor and equipment supplier to determine the appropriate method for handling this conversion.

EmPower NY Contractors

EmPCalc v5.2 has been updated with the UEF metric. If you are submitting a unit manufactured prior to the labeling change you will need to convert to the new UEF metric. The latest version of EmPCalc is available on the [Contractor Support Website](#) in [Section 11.2c](#) of the Contractor Resource Manual. Please check the website frequently to ensure you are using the latest version available.

**Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Eligibility Update**

The Program is now accepting ASHP as a pre-qualified measure when replacing an

existing cooling system. Like other central air conditioning measures, this measure is eligible for a contractor incentive only. As this technology grows in acceptance, a comprehensive approach to address the use of ASHP throughout NYSERDA's programs is underway.

#### **Contractor Resource Manual Updates**

The [Contractor Resource Manual](#) has been updated with the air source heat pump eligibility and new UEF requirements. Please review these updates to ensure that submitted measures meet the Program requirements.

- [Section 6.3 Eligible Measures and Accessories](#)
- [Section 11.2c EmPCalc v5.2](#)

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your Account Manager.

Thank you.

-The NY Residential Existing Homes Programs

#### **About NYSERDA**

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