

January 26, 2010

Subject: California Contractors are Required to Recycle Mercury Thermostats

Dear C-20 Contractor:

California passed a law called the Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2008 that every HVAC and demolition contractor and HVAC wholesaler needs to know about. The law took effect July 1, 2009 with a goal of reducing mercury pollution by requiring a mercury thermostat collection program to be developed and advertised by the thermostat manufacturers. The law also requires contractors to recycle mercury thermostats by bringing them to an approved collection location which now includes HVAC wholesalers. We want to make sure that California contractors are aware of the law and know how to easily recycle mercury thermostats. The law does the following:

- HVAC wholesalers are required to accept mercury thermostats from contractors and do-it-yourselfers free-of-charge and are required to distribute to customers the education and outreach materials developed by the manufacturers.
- Contractors must recycle mercury-containing thermostats.
- Demolition contractors must remove mercury thermostats before demolition and recycle them at HVAC wholesalers or other locations.
- The Department of Toxic Substance Control is responsible for enforcement of the law.

Compliance is easy! Contractors can take mercury-containing thermostats to any HVAC wholesaler in California.

The program is funded by the Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC), a product stewardship organization established and funded by thermostat manufacturers. TRC provides collection bins to HVAC wholesalers which have pre-paid shipping for easy return to their facility for recycling. Contractors with more than seven employees or those serving rural areas can get their own recycling bin from TRC for a nominal one-time fee of \$25. Contractors can download a bin order form at http://www.calpsc.org/products/docs/2009/thermostats_TRC%20Contractor_Participation_Form.pdf

For more information on the law, please refer contractors to the attached fact sheet from the Department of Toxic Substance Control or to the California Product Stewardship Council's website at <http://www.calpsc.org/products/thermostats.html> .

For more information on the TRC program and to find thermostat recycling locations go to <http://www.thermostat-recycle.org>

We thank you for helping to inform California contractors about how they can reduce mercury pollution and comply with this important new law.

Sincerely,



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