PTCS
Performance Tested Comfort Systems

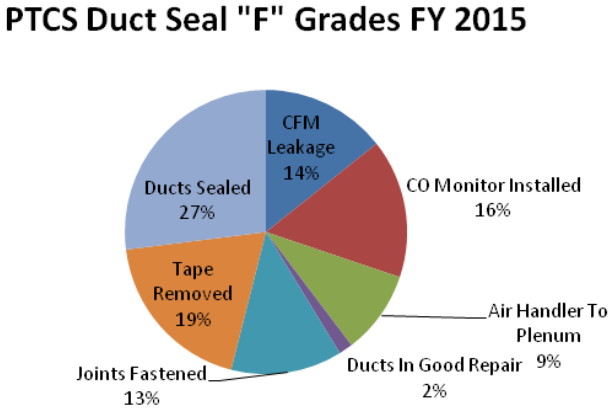
Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) Program Quality Assurance Update

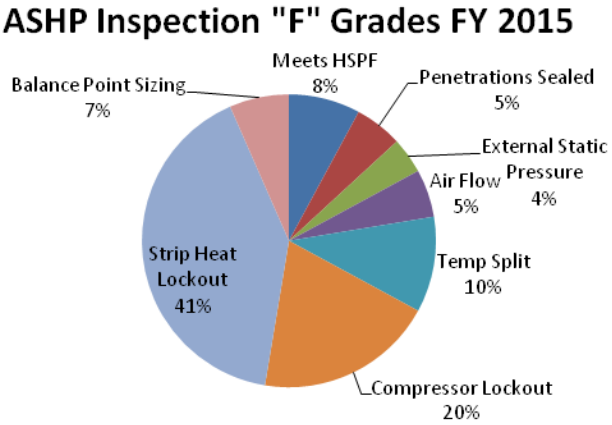
PTCS Quality Assurance

In the fall of 2014, BPA worked with PTCS participating utilities and Utility Quality Assurance (QA) Inspectors to improve the level of detail collected in our QA inspections and to more consistently document where and why projects were failing to meet the PTCS specifications.

We also created feedback letter templates to more clearly communicate to PTCS Technicians what they were doing correctly and where they needed improvement.

In May of 2015, this work resulted in the creation of a Grading Scale (A-F) to provide more specific feedback from QA inspections. (The communication to the technician includes both Pass/Fail and a grade. The serving utility makes the final decision in what it delivers to the PTCS technician).





Results of PTCS Quality Assurance Inspections

5,857 Total PTCS Heat Pump and Duct Seal Projects
350 PTCS Inspections
264 PASS Inspections
86 FAIL Inspections

Better use of QA Data

Now that PTCS is armed with data-backed trends and has a benchmark for future analysis, it can start acting on this information. The program can:

- Improve training and outreach to focus on trouble areas.
- Message to PTCS technicians and trainers areas to watch out for during their installs and inspections.
- Consider if there are elements of the spec that we can lean-up.

The program will review Quality Assurance data to track if the targeted information is making an impact. These trends may also influence future program requirements.

Want to learn more?

Contact Jessica Kramer at jlkramer@bpa.gov or 503-230-3640.

BPA Residential HVAC Program Update

Performance Tested Comfort Systems (PTCS) Program

PTCS has been maintaining support to regional utilities and technicians with air and ground source heat pump and duct sealing projects. The program has also been:

- Improving feedback mechanisms with technicians
- Leveraging data from the Momentum Savings Market Research to scope opportunities with Contractors and Distributors
- Improving PTCS trainings and examinations
- Using Quality Assurance inspections to inform the future of our program design (see other side for more details)

Ductless Heat Pumps

The voltage requirement for Ductless Heat Pumps (DHP) of 208 voltage/230 voltage circuit has been removed from the DHP Qualified Products List (QPL). This voltage requirement was originally put in place for the launch of the NW Ductless Project to help ensure equipment quality. However, the current HSPF specification eliminates the need for the voltage requirement. The DHP QPL has been updated and now includes 110v units.

Effective October 1, 2016 in the BPA Implementation Manual

- The BPA DHP requirements and specifications will be updated to also require the use of a vacuum pump during installation and that the DHP system shall be installed on a dedicated electrical circuit. These updates were recommended by NEEA and others to provide additional safety measures for lower voltage units and pre-charged line-sets.
- Under DHP Requirements and Specifications, the requirement "Ducted indoor DHP units do not qualify for payment" will be modified to read: "Ducted indoor DHP units do not qualify for payment as a DHP, but may be claimed as a PTCS Variable Speed Heat Pump provided the installation meets all PTCS requirements."

Want to learn more?

Contact Jessica Kramer at jlkramer@bpa.gov or 503-230-3640. For any PTCS program question, contact the program at resHVAC@bpa.gov or 1-800-941-3867