

# The 2015 Wood Heater Rule: Vendors, distributors, and installers

## How vendors, distributors, and installers can comply with the 2015 Wood Heater Rule

This section gives an overview of the requirements of those who advertise, distribute, offer for sale, sell or install wood heaters. Please review the rule closely to ensure your business practices are in compliance with the 2015 Wood Heater Rule. Additional information is available on the [EPA website](#).

### Advertising, selling, distributing and installing wood heaters

It is illegal to advertise, sell, or install new wood heaters that are not U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified under the 2015 Wood Heater Rule. All new wood-burning heaters you advertise, offer for sale, distribute, install, or sell must be EPA-certified to the 2015 Wood Heater Rule Step 1 or Step 2 emission limits. Beginning May 16, 2020, they must be certified to the Step 2 emission limits. Appliance-specific Step 1 and Step 2 emission limits and compliance dates are available on the [EPA website](#) and the [Emissions Limits and Compliance dates fact sheet](#).

### Be sure any “exempt” heaters are really exempt from EPA-certification requirements

If you plan to advertise, distribute, sell, or install any new non-EPA certified heaters designed to burn coal, corn, or other non-wood fuels, be sure their warranties and all advertising clearly say that wood burning is prohibited in them (§60.5472 for central heaters or §60.530 for room heaters).

For coal-only heaters to be exempt from the 2015 Wood Heater Rule EPA certification requirements, they must be listed by an accepted safety-testing laboratory for coal use only, except for coal ignition purposes (§60.5473 and §60.531). Otherwise, they must be EPA-certified to be legally advertised, sold, or installed.

### 2020-certified models can display EPA-approved hangtags

If you sell wood heater model lines EPA-certified to the more stringent Step 2 (year 2020) particulate performance standards before 2020, you can highlight these models for consumers by displaying the optional temporary 2020 [hangtag labels](#). Manufacturers can apply to EPA for these hangtags for you to display on these models in your showroom.

Wood burning room heaters and central heater model lines that are EPA-certified to the 2020 emission limits by testing with actual firewood (cordwood), designed to better characterize how the wood heater will burn wood, compared to dimensional lumber (crib wood) can show the 2020 cordwood tested hangtags.

### Follow the permanent labeling requirements

Each EPA-certified heater traveling through the distribution system, advertised, offered for sale, or sold must have EPA's approved label permanently affixed (§ 60.536 (a) (3) subpart AAA for room heaters and § 60.5478 (a) (3) subpart QQQQ for central heaters). It must be in compliance with all labeling requirements. The permanent label must be in a readily visible or accessible location so it can be easily seen before and after the appliance is installed (an easily removable façade can be used for aesthetic purposes. The bottom of free-standing heaters is not considered to be readily visible or readily accessible).

Permanent labels must list the manufacture month and year, the model name and number, the certification test emission value, the test method and standard met, and the serial number. Additional required text specific to heater and the year of the particulate emission standards met are listed in the rule. Central heater labels must include: "This appliance needs periodic inspection and repair for proper operation. Consult owner's manual for further information. It is against federal regulations to operate this appliance in a manner inconsistent with operating instructions in the owner's manual." Non wood-burning central heaters (§60.5472(b)(3)) must include this statement on their permanent labels "U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY". This appliance is not certified for wood burning. Use of any wood fuel is a violation of federal regulations."

### **Do not sell "for export only" models in the United States**

Models labeled "for export only" are illegal to sell in the United States.

### **Single burn rate wood heaters certified without air controls must not have a flue damper**

Single burn rate wood heaters (wood heaters that do not have air controls) are not approved for use with a flue damper. They are designed to operate at one air setting, and damping down the air flow will produce poor combustion conditions with excessive smoke.

### **Catalytic combustors must be in place**

Never operate, offer for sale, or sell any regulated wood heater manufactured with a catalytic combustor if the catalyst has been deactivated or removed.

## **Certification revocation**

If a model line labeling, owner's manual, or associated marketing information does not comply with the requirements of §60.5478 for central heaters or §60.536 for room heaters, the EPA can revoke the certification. Do not continue to sell a model line if its certification has been revoked. Do not risk a wood heater model line's EPA-certification by advertising that it can operate at higher or lower settings (and burn rates) than were measured during its EPA certification test. Know the range of burn rates used for the wood heater's certification. The certification testing reports including the burn rates should be publically available on the manufacturer's website.

## **Consumer education**

Educate the consumers on the importance of only burning appropriate fuels and following the owner's manual. For certification, the warranties for certified wood heaters must state they are void if the unit is used to burn materials for which the unit is not certified by the EPA and void if not operated according to the owner's manual §60.533(b)(6) and §60.5475(b)(6).