NYC GREEN CODES
LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

GCTF Proposal
Expand Boiler Efficiency Testing & Tuning

Implemented
Chapter 2 of Title 15 of the Rules of the City of New York

Summary
The Department of Environmental Protection previously tested boiler combustion efficiency only every three years. The amended Rules of the City of New York improve boiler and water heater procedures by setting higher combustion efficiency requirements for fuel oil boilers and establishing efficiency requirements for gas boilers for the first time. Annual equipment testing is now required, which will help to detect malfunctions, permit tuning, and result in more efficient boiler operation.

New Requirements or Changes
Effective: February 17, 2014. These rules apply to all boilers required to obtain an operating license under DOB regulations.

Amendments to the Rules of the City of New York, Title 15, Chapter 2:

- Section 2-09 now requires annual boiler tune-ups and combustion efficiency tests, which must be conducted by a qualified tester using a calibrated combustion analyzer. Test results must be submitted once every three years with the application to renew the certificate of operation. Records of the dates, procedures, and results of each tune-up must be kept for a minimum of five years and must be submitted to the DEP within five business days, if requested by the department.

- Section 2-08 creates more stringent performance testing requirements for fuel oil boilers and sets a minimum efficiency for gas boilers. The minimum combustion efficiency requirement for oil-fired boilers increased from 80% to 83%. The minimum combustion efficiency requirement for gas-fired boilers is established at 80%. Dual-fueled installations must meet the requirements for each respective fuel.

  Oil-fired installations that don’t achieve 83% combustion efficiency but can reach at least 80% have three years (one renewal cycle) to bring the equipment into compliance. Gas-fired installations that don’t achieve 80% combustion efficiency have three years (one renewal cycle) to bring the equipment into compliance.

- Section 2-04 now allows online applications for work permits or certificates of operation from licensed individuals who pre-register with the department.
Enforcement

These new and revised provisions are a standard part of the Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection. They will be enforced by the DEP in the same manner as any other element of the boiler and water heater rules.

Implementation

There are no known issues for implementation of this revised rule. There are a significant number of national manufacturers selling equipment that will comply with the rule.