

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-647-0000**

Partial Replacement of a Split System Heat Pump or Air Conditioner

Code: 2018 Energy Code
Section: R403.7

Date: March 15, 2019

Code: 2018 Mechanical Code
Section: 304.1

Date: March 15, 2019

Code: 2018 Residential Code
Section: N1103.7

Date: March 15, 2019

Question:

When the outdoor section (or indoor section) of a split system residential heat pump or air conditioner must be replaced, with a compatible replacement, is the replacement appliance required to perform at the current efficiency requirements for a new system?

Answer:

No, it has been common practice for many years for an outdoor section of a split system residential heat pump or air conditioner to be replaced due to its failure while retaining the indoor section (or vice-versa) since it remains suitable for continued use. Also refer to NCMC Section 304.1, and associated interpretation for said section for further clarifications on partial system replacements.