

## INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-661-5880

### Partial Replacement of a Split System Heat Pump or Air Conditioner

**Code:** 2012 Energy Code

**Date:** January 22, 2013

**Section:** 403.6.2

**Code:** 2012 Mechanical Code

**Date:** January 22, 2013

**Section:** 304.1

**Code:** 2012 Residential Code

**Date:** January 22, 2013

**Section:** N1103.6.2

**Question:**

When the outdoor section (or indoor section) of a split system residential heat pump or air conditioner must be replaced, 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.