



Informal Interpretation Report Number 9091



Date August 21, 2025

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Section R403.7.1

Question:

Cooling equipment must fall within 100-115% of the calculated heat load, "or the closest available size provided by the manufacturer product lines". For a project, the builder has elected to use multi-speed/two stage equipment, which only comes in whole tons sizes. Our options for the equipment line selected (multi-speed, 16 SEER) are a 2 ton - 88% of load and a 3-ton at 134% of the load. We selected the 3-ton equipment. Per the "closest available size" language, we are within compliance, correct? Are we required to search for alternative equipment from the manufacturer that falls within 100-115% (different product line, capabilities, SEER rating)?

Answer

The described condition does appear to fall within the code guidelines. The 2 ton unit described is only 12% below and the 3 ton is 34% higher. The 2 ton unit should be selected to comply with the governing code.

Commentary:

Many units today are oversized creating a "short cycle" situation. When this happens the units do not remove sufficient humidity before reaching the temperature setpoint. In a tropical climate with high humidity, it is very important to remove the humidity for creature comfort. The Energy Conservation volume limits the cooling to a temperature of 75 degrees in sections C302.1 and R302.1 which should be attainable if the construction is code compliant.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.