NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Division of Housing and Community Resources

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
BULLETIN #720

To: Executive Directors and Weatherization Managers

From: Clarice S. Sabree-Sylla, Supervisor, OLIEC

Date: September 28, 1998

Affected Programs: DOE, DHS and HIP

Topic: **Efficiency Rating of Horizontal Warm Air Furnaces**

Summary: OLIEC is amending the standard applicable to horizontal warm air furnaces. The new standard is a minimum Steady-State Efficiency of at least 78%.

Existing OLIEC standards for replacement heating systems require that these systems have a Steady-State Efficiency rating of at least 80%. These ratings are verified before heating systems are approved for installation by checking with the directories of independent trade associations, such as the Gas Appliance Manufacturers' Association (GAMA). The Steady-State Efficiency is verified after installation through a combustion efficiency test conducted by the installing contractor and the agency field technician.

Due to recent changes in the certification process used by GAMA to rate the efficiency of heating systems, it may be difficult to select a horizontal warm air furnace with a Steady-State Efficiency which meets New Jersey's 80% requirement.

Therefore, OLIEC is amending the standard applicable to horizontal warm air furnaces. The new standard is a minimum Steady-State Efficiency of at least of 78%.

This amended standard is only applicable to horizontal warm air furnaces. Use of heating units which cannot meet the 80% Steady-State Efficiency standard should be avoided whenever possible. The OLIEC will only approve the use of such units when there is no reasonable alternative which meets the 80% Steady-State Efficiency requirement.

Whenever horizontal warm air furnaces which do not meet the 80% Steady-State Efficiency standard are installed, the installation should include either a vent damper or a power vent, depending on whether the unit is oil or gas-fired.