

From: Debbie Stackhouse [mailto:Stackhouse.Debbie@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2012 2:44 PM
To: Doug Hensel; Shawn Huff; Kyle Krause
Cc: Larry Brockman; Tom Braverman
Subject: EPA response to CAL GREEN code 4.503 proposed revisions

I would ask that you reconsider amendments to the CAL GREEN Code 4.503 and incorporate cleaner wood-burning fireplaces that meet U.S. EPA's Voluntary Partnership Program. I believe this is very important because some Air Districts may continue allowing fireplaces in new home construction. As such, I recommend that you acknowledge the use of cleaner burning fireplaces which are qualified by EPA to meet the Phase 2 emissions level of 5.1 grams of particle pollution per kilogram of wood burned. To date, EPA has qualified fifteen new models that are cleaner burning than other non-qualified models. EPA's qualification requires testing of each model by a qualified test laboratory and certification by a 3rd party accreditation body. EPA thoroughly reviews these test reports as part of the qualification process. Not only is wood smoke an outdoor pollution problem, it also dramatically affects the indoor air. Small particles and pollutants in wood smoke can trigger asthma attacks. Wood smoke has also been linked to heart attacks in people with heart disease. Children, older adults and people with lung and heart disease are especially vulnerable.

In summary, where fireplaces are allowed in new construction, EPA recommends the installation of cleaner burning Phase 2 qualified models. See epa.gov/burnwise for more information on qualified fireplace models.