

NOTICE TO CONNECTICUT THERMOSTAT WHOLESALERS AND CONTRACTORS

This notice is intended to provide an overview of [CGS Section 22a-625 establishing a mercury thermostat collection and recycling program](#) and inform electrical wholesalers and contractors of requirements under the law. Under Connecticut's **Mercury Education and Reduction Act** CGS 22a-617 mercury-added thermostats are prohibited from sale and must be recycled or disposed of as universal waste (please note – it is much more cost effective to recycle).

Manufacturer Requirements

- Effective April 1, 2013, thermostat manufacturers were required to establish and fund a collection program for out-of-service mercury thermostats.
- Manufacturers must provide a thermostat collection container to any eligible wholesaler, retailer or contractor.
- Manufacturers must include outreach and education about proper recycling of thermostats
- Manufacturers must submit annual reports to CT DEEP on the effectiveness of collection efforts.
- Manufacturers not in compliance are prohibited from offering any thermostats for sale in CT
- A one time fee not to exceed \$75 may be assessed to the participating retailer, wholesaler or contractor.

Wholesaler Requirements

Effective July 1, 2014, any wholesaler that sells thermostats and any HVAC contractor that employs seven or more installers are required to participate in this program, by:

- serving as a collection site for mercury thermostats and;
- providing point-of-sale instructions, educational materials and signage regarding the importance of recycling mercury thermostats
- Wholesalers are legally prohibited from selling any type of thermostat unless they serve as a collection site for thermostats that contain mercury.
- Wholesalers and retailers are prohibited from selling thermostats from any manufacturer not in compliance

Contractor Requirements

- Effective, July 1, 2014, any contractor that employs seven or more installers and is not in an urban area, must serve as a collection point for mercury thermostats under the manufacturer program.

Other Requirement

- Any contractor demolishing a building must first remove any mercury thermostats shall recycle them or bring them to a participating thermostat wholesaler.
- Effective July 1, 2014, there is a prohibition on the disposal of mercury thermostats including residential.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is responsible for monitoring compliance by manufacturers and wholesalers and for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

For further information on the requirements for mercury-added thermostats in Connecticut, please contact Tom Metzner at tom.metzner@ct.gov