

Tech Tip

Economizers & Demand Control Ventilation

A recent change in California codes has caused some confusion for those of us installing economizers in our region. The new code requires all economizers to have demand control ventilation (DCV, IAQ, CO2) capability, and that the economizer controller should default to the maximum DCV damper setting if the CO2 sensor fails. **NOT HAVING A CO2 SENSOR IS INTERPRETED AS A FAILURE BY THE ECONOMIZER CONTROLLER.** Therefore, whenever the system is occupied and the indoor blower is running, an economizer controller that has no CO2 sensor attached will position the dampers to the maximum DCV setting regardless of whatever else is supposed to be going on.

To prevent this from happening, the technician must turn the DCV MAX setting counterclockwise to 2V if no CO2 sensor is wired up to the controller. Technicians should check this setting on every economizer they start up, whether factory or field installed, and regardless of manufacturer or distributor.

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