

Technical Bulletin

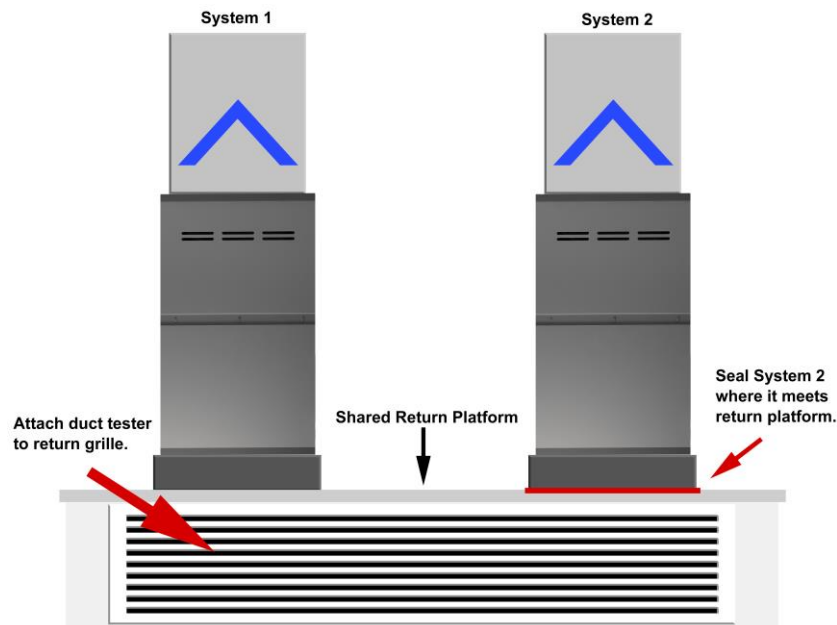
Shared Return Duct Testing

How to Conduct Duct Leakage Testing on Systems that Share a Return

On occasion, a HERS Rater may find two FAUs for a standard split system installed on the same return platform. It is arguable as to whether this is a sound design strategy; however it is our opinion that for the purposes of HERS diagnostic testing, the inspection protocol is relatively straightforward.

It is important to note that each system must be tested, and comply independent of the other. However, the leakage of any shared component, such as the return platform, must be included in the overall duct leakage of *each* system. The testing protocol is as follows:

- 1) When testing system 1, seal off system 2 where the FAU connects to the return platform.
- 2) Seal off the supply registers for system 1.
- 3) Connect your duct tester to the return grille so the *entire* return platform is included in your duct test.
- 4) Conduct the duct test as you normally would, to confirm the system complies.
- 5) Duplicate these protocols in order to test system 2, but instead, seal off system 1 where the FAU meets the return platform.



Additional questions about HERS verification of duct leakage may be directed to CalCERTS support: support@calcerts.com or (916) 985-3400, ext.*

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