

**El Dorado County Development Services Department  
Building Services**

**POLICY**

*A department policy is based on an interpretation of a code provision  
and is subject to change based on new information.*

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE IN AUTOMOTIVE GARAGES**

Automotive repair garages have operational characteristics that sometimes prove challenging when applying the California Energy Code. In general, if heaters are installed in an enclosed space, it is considered conditioned space and must meet the provisions of the code. Since many garages operate with the doors open so that any heated (or cooled) air is immediately lost to the outside, Building Services will evaluate each garage using the following evaluation criteria.

If radiant heaters are used to provide localized “spot” heating only, and if the vehicle access doors remain open while mechanics perform repairs, the garage is not considered conditioned space and the provisions of the code do not apply. This application presumes the heaters are not used to condition the air and the space is not enclosed.

Heated or air-conditioned garages that operate with the doors closed must comply with the California Energy Code (an energy analysis of the space required and necessary insulation, lighting, etc.. will need to be provided).