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The European Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings states that Member States shall lay down measures to establish a regular inspection of air conditioning (AC) systems of effective output of more than 12 kW. This legislative measure – in conjunction with the fact that about one third of the existing AC system will become obsolete in the next years – opens a vast opportunity to achieve significant energy savings.

There area however a few open questions, that will have to be addressed before energy auditing in AC will become a widespread practice:

- The main energy input for AC systems is electricity, which is centrally metered without separating the individual users (i.e., lighting, appliances, AC, etc.).
- Most energy service contracts include the maintenance of AC systems but electricity bills are generally paid directly by the building owner / tenant: consequently, no real reasons exist for implementing a costly and relatively complex procedure of gathering disaggregated electricity use data.
- Calculation methods for assessing the AC energy demand are not as well established as those for winter heating.
- National regulations for AC system inspection / auditing are generally still lacking.

Most of these issues will be the focus of the new EIE project HARMONAC (Harmonizing Air Conditioning Inspection and Audit Procedures in the Tertiary Building Sector) that is scheduled to start in the Fall of 2007.