

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Evaporatively-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners and Water-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

This Request for Information (“RFI”) initiates the review process outlined by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, and seeks input from the public to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) with its determination about whether amended energy conservation standards are warranted for Evaporatively-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners (“ECUACs”) and Water-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners (“WCUACs”).

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for ECUACs and WCUACs would result in significant energy savings and whether such standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified.

This RFI is part of DOE’s ongoing commitment to consider feedback from all interested stakeholders and promote an open and transparent rulemaking process.

2. What type of information is the Department looking for?

In this RFI, DOE outlines information about the current standards for ECUACs and WCUACs, describes the state of the market as understood by DOE, discusses the option of changing efficiency metrics and potential issues with such a change, and asks for input and information from stakeholders. In the previous 2012 rulemaking, DOE adopted the revised industry standards in ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2010 as the Federal energy conservation standards for ECUACs and WCUACs. DOE is requesting information on any changes in the market or efficiency of these equipment types that may show that more stringent standards for these equipment categories are technologically feasible and economically justified and would result in significant additional conservation of energy.

3. What are ECUACs and WCUACs?

ECUACs and WCUACs are two broad equipment categories within the general equipment type of commercial packaged air conditioners regulated by DOE. This equipment primarily provides space cooling for commercial buildings. ECUAC and WCUAC equipment classes are distinguished by cooling capacity, heat rejection medium (water or evaporative cooling), and heating mechanism.

4. How much energy do ECUACs and WCUACs consume?

The largest class by shipments has annual per-unit energy consumption of approximately 40,000 kWh.

5. How many ECUACs and WCUACs are shipped annually in the United States?

Annual shipments are estimated to be less than 2,000 and mostly from the largest capacity classes.

6. Who are the parties that may be interested in this notice?

Interested parties include manufacturers of ECUACs and WCUACs, trade associations, distributors, energy utilities, state agencies, international organizations, and consumer, energy, and environmental advocacy groups.

7. How does an interested party comment on this notice and when are comments due?

The comment period for this rule will be 45 days, beginning on the date in which this document publishes in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties may submit comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to WCandECUAC2017STD0032@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-TP-0032. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.