

Enforcement Policy Statement – Electric Motors

Issued: June 10, 2026

In an exercise of its enforcement discretion, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces an extension of its delayed enforcement policy for manufacturers making voluntary representations of certain categories of electric motors subject to the test procedure codified at Appendix B to Subpart B of 10 CFR 431.

Background:

On October 19, 2022, DOE published an electric motors test procedure final rule (“October 2022 Final Rule”), which among other modifications, expanded the scope of the test procedure to include new equipment categories of electric motors. 87 FR 63588. The final test procedure rule requires manufacturers who choose to make voluntary representations of energy consumption or cost of energy consumed by such electric motors to use the amended DOE test procedure, sampling, and representation requirements beginning April 17, 2023. 87 FR 63588, at 63591.

On September 27, 2023, DOE issued an enforcement policy by which DOE exercised its enforcement discretion to delay enforcement activities for manufacturers making voluntary representations of the new categories of electric motors. Specifically, the enforcement policy delayed the commencement date for inverter-only electric motors, synchronous electric motors, and expanded-scope electric motors, including air-over expanded scope electric motors, until October 14, 2026.¹ While manufacturers of these categories of electric motors are not required to use the amended test procedure for certification or labeling purposes because DOE has not adopted energy conservation standards for them, DOE understands that manufacturers typically make voluntary representations of energy efficiency. DOE’s electric motors regulations are unique compared to the regulations for other covered products and equipment in that they require the use of either a third-party laboratory or a certification body (both of which must be DOE-approved), adding additional time to the testing and representation development process.

DOE understands that the circumstances that justified DOE’s initial decision to postpone enforcement have not materially changed for these motor categories. In particular, DOE is aware that (1) the current test procedure does not reflect performance under the range of variable-speed operation for inverter-only and synchronous motors; (2) enforcing the procedure as written would create avoidable compliance risk, market confusion, and inconstant enforcement outcomes; (3) misaligned test results would provide

¹ The September 27, 2023, enforcement policy also delayed enforcement activities for manufacturers making voluntary representations of electric motors greater than 500 hp and up to 750 hp until October 14, 2024, and for air-over electric motors other than air-over expanded scope electric motors, until October 14, 2025. The enforcement policy has now lapsed for these motor categories. These motors are subject to the energy conservation standards that were established by a direct final rule, published on June 1, 2023, in which compliance is required on and after June 1, 2027. 88 FR 36066

misleading energy cost and performance information to customers and regulators; and (4) continued enforcement discretion would preserve regulatory stability while DOE evaluates next steps and engages stakeholders on an appropriate path forward.

DOE further recognizes that extending the enforcement stay would help avoid premature redesign and testing burdens while DOE continues refining the technical basis for evaluating newer motor technologies. Continuing the delay would prevent disruptions to customer choice that could arise if certain motor types were effectively removed from the market before appropriate testing and certification pathways are fully established. Additional time would also allow manufacturers to integrate advanced inverter-driven and synchronous motor features without facing inconsistent or incomplete compliance requirements. Under an extended enforcement policy, voluntary efficiency representations could continue to reflect validated, real-world performance rather than inadvertently disadvantaging higher-performing modern designs. Extending the stay would also provide important regulatory certainty for manufacturers, test laboratories, and customers, while also reducing disproportionate compliance risks for domestic producers.

Finally, DOE understands that industry efforts are underway to develop and validate test methods, improve laboratory readiness, and collect market and performance data regarding motors capable of variable-speed operation. Extending the enforcement stay will provide industry additional time to further these efforts in coordination with DOE.

Application:

DOE concludes that extending the enforcement stay would promote consumer choice and reduce costs for consumers.

Accordingly, DOE is hereby delaying enforcement activities for manufacturers making voluntary representations by an additional 3 years, as shown in the following table:

Electric Motor Category	Further Delay in Enforcement	Enforcement Commencement Date
Inverter-only and synchronous electric motors	3 years	October 14, 2029
Expanded scope electric motors, including air-over expanded scope electric motors	3 years	October 14, 2029

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