

**Enforcement Policy Statement: Off Mode Standards for Central Air Conditioners and Central Air Conditioning Heat Pumps**

July 8, 2014

On June 27, 2011, the Department of Energy (DOE) published in the Federal Register a direct final rule (DFR) under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 6291-6309, which set forth amended energy conservation standards for central air conditioners and central air conditioning heat pumps (CAC/HP), including a new standard for off mode electrical power consumption. 76 Fed. Reg. 37,408. CAC/HP units manufactured on or after January 1, 2015, are subject to that standard for off mode electrical power consumption. 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(c)(6).

DOE initiated a rulemaking to set a test method for measuring the off-mode electrical power consumption of CAC/HP on June 2, 2010. 75 Fed. Reg. 31,224. DOE published a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on April 1, 2011. 76 Fed. Reg. 18,105. DOE then published another supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking on October 24, 2011. 76 Fed. Reg. 65,616 (Oct. 24, 2011).

After evaluating the comments received in response to those proposals, DOE continues to develop an alternate proposed method for measuring off mode electrical power consumption of CAC/HP and expects to publish a new supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking.

In light of the lack of a final test method for measuring off mode electrical power consumption for CAC/HP, DOE will not assert civil penalty authority for violation of the off mode standard for CAC/HP specified at 10 C.F.R. § 430.32(c)(6) until 180 days following publication of a final rule establishing a test method for measuring off mode electrical power consumption for CAC/HP.