

Enforcement Policy Statement – Electric Motors

Issued: September 27, 2023

In an exercise of its enforcement discretion, the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) announces a delayed enforcement model for manufacturers making voluntary representations of certain categories of electric motors subject to the amended test procedure published on October 19, 2022.

Background:

On October 19, 2022, DOE published the electric motors test procedure final rule (“October 2022 Final Rule”). 87 FR 63588. The final rule changes are mandatory for product testing starting April 17, 2023. The October 2022 Final Rule added several categories of electric motors subject to DOE test procedures and representation requirements. The additional categories of electric motors include:

- (1) Air-over electric motors;
- (2) Electric motors greater than 500 horsepower (“hp”);
- (3) Expanded scope electric motors (“ESEMs”, formally known as small, non-small electric motor, electric motors or “SNEMs”)¹;
- (4) Inverter-only electric motors; and
- (5) Certain synchronous electric motors.

While manufacturers of these additional categories of electric motors are not required to use the amended test procedure for certification or labeling purposes until DOE adopts energy conservation standards, DOE understands that manufacturers typically make representations of energy efficiency with respect to these categories of electric motors. The October 2022 Final Rule required manufacturers who choose to make voluntary representations of the 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, and such representation must also fairly disclose the results of such testing. 87 FR 63588, at 63591.

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. Since third-party laboratories performing the testing still need to obtain accreditation and validate new alternative efficiency determination methods (“AEDMs”) after manufacturers have developed new simulations for the additional categories of electric motors, DOE has decided to delay its enforcement activities for testing and representations of the additional categories of electric motors only.

Application:

DOE will delay enforcement activities for manufacturers making voluntary representations of the additional categories of electric motors as follows:

¹ In the October 2022 Final Test Procedure, DOE used the term small, non-small electric motor, electric motors (“SNEMs”) to designate ESEMs

Electric Motor Category	Delay in Enforcement	Enforcement commencement date
Electric motors greater than 500 and up to 750 hp	12 months	October 14, 2024
Air-over electric motors other than air-over ESEMs	24 months	October 14, 2025
Inverter-only and synchronous electric motors	36 months	October 14, 2026
Expanded scope electric motors (“ESEMs”), including air-over ESEMs (“AO-ESEMs”)	36 months	October 14, 2026

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