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).


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.