

Enforcement Policy Statement – Appliances with network connectivity features

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DOE recognizes that many manufacturers are now developing “connected” appliances, allowing for options such as remote control access and energy control features, as consumers increasingly demand such features. DOE will exercise its enforcement discretion by not seeking civil penalties for models that do not meet an applicable energy conservation standard solely due to energy use resulting from connecting the product to a network when tested in accordance with the DOE test procedure. DOE notes that, if there is a DOE test procedure that requires a network mode, this policy does not apply.

This policy does not create or remove any rights or duties and does not affect any other aspect of EPCA or DOE regulations. This policy statement is not a final agency action, has no legally binding effect on persons or entities outside the federal government, and may be rescinded or modified in the Department's complete discretion. Accordingly, it is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to, create any rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any matter.