

Frequently Asked Questions

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pertaining to Test Procedures for Ceiling Fans

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”), DOE proposes to amend the test procedure for ceiling fans. The amendments would ensure that the ceiling fan test procedure is not unduly burdensome to conduct and is reasonably designed to produce test results that reflect energy efficiency, energy use, and estimated operating costs during a representative average use cycle or period of use. In this NOPR, DOE also announces a public meeting to receive comment on the proposed test procedure. This NOPR is part of DOE’s ongoing commitment to consider feedback from all interested stakeholders and promote an open and transparent rulemaking process.

2. What changes does this NOPR propose?

In this NOPR, DOE proposes to:

- Clarify that the EPCA definition of ceiling fan mean those fans offered for mounting only on a ceiling. In other words, any fan, including a ceiling-mount air circulating fan head, offered with other mounting options would not be a ceiling fan for purposes of EPCA.
- Clarify that VSD ceiling fans that do not also meet the definition of LSSD fan are not required to be tested pursuant to the current test method for small-diameter ceiling fans;
- Increase the tolerance for the stability criteria for the average air velocity measurements for low speed to reduce test burden;
- Specify that large-diameter fans with blade spans greater than 24 feet would not be required to be tested pursuant to the current test method for large-diameter ceiling fans;
- Codify in regulation existing guidance on the method for calculating values reported on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission’s EnergyGuide label for LSSD and VSD ceiling fans using results from the ceiling fan test procedures in Appendix U to subpart B of 10 CFR part 430 and represented values in 10 CFR part 429; and
- Amend certification requirements and product-specific enforcement provisions for ceiling fans, in line with the amended ceiling fan test procedures, and energy conservation standards.

3. What is a ceiling fan?

A “ceiling fan” is a “nonportable device that is suspended from a ceiling for circulating air via the rotation of fan blades.” (42 U.S.C. 6291(49))

4. How much energy do ceiling fans consume?

In the aggregate, ceiling fans consume approximately 0.25 quads/year of primary energy in the United States. This is equivalent to 1.2 percent of annual U.S. residential building energy use in the United States.

5. How many ceiling fans are shipped annually in the United States?

The total ceiling fan shipments in 2016 were 19.6 million.

6. Who are the parties that may be interested in this notice?

Interested parties include manufacturers of ceiling fans, trade associations, distributors, energy utilities, state agencies, international organizations, and consumer, energy, and environmental advocacy groups.

7. How does an interested party comment on this notice and when are comments due?

The comment period for this rule will be 60 days, beginning on the date in which this document publishes in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties may submit comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to CF2013TP0050@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2013-BT-TP-0050.