

Frequently Asked Questions

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/Final Rule Pertaining to Test Procedures for Consumer Refrigeration Products

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”), DOE proposes an amended test procedure for consumer refrigeration products. The proposed amendments would ensure that the test procedure for consumer refrigeration products 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. This NOPR and the associated public meeting are part of DOE’s ongoing commitment to consider feedback from all interested stakeholders and promote an open and transparent rulemaking process.

2. What changes is the Department proposing to make?

In this NOPR, DOE proposes to amend its test procedures for consumer refrigeration products to (1) establish a compartment definition that is consistent with the industry term; (2) update references to the relevant industry standard; (3) update the automatic icemaker fixed adder; (4) in light of the proposed amendment to the icemaker fixed adder, amend the energy conservation standards for consumer refrigeration products with automatic ice makers in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 6293(e)(2); (5) provide additional detail on the test set-up and test conditions; (6) specify testing demand-response capable units with the communication module off; and (7) make corrections. DOE is requesting comment on these proposals in this NOPR.

3. What is a consumer refrigeration product?

Consumer refrigeration products include refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers, and miscellaneous refrigeration products. Consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers are products used to chill and preserve food and beverages, provide ice and chilled water, and to store frozen food. Miscellaneous refrigeration products are consumer refrigeration products other than refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, or freezers, and includes coolers (wine chillers and similar products) and combination cooler refrigeration products.

4. How much energy do consumer refrigeration products consume?

On average, consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers consume 384 kWh, 588 kWh, and 555 kWh per year, respectively and used 1.25 quads per year of primary energy in 2016. Coolers (the most common type of miscellaneous refrigeration product) consume approximately 440 kWh per year and used 0.074 quads of primary energy in 2014.

5. How many consumer refrigeration products are shipped annually in the United States?

DOE estimates annual shipments of consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers of 16.3 million units in 2016. For miscellaneous refrigeration products, DOE estimated shipments of approximately 1.6 million units in 2014.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of consumer refrigeration products, 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 ConsumerRefrigFreezer2017TP0004@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-TP-0004.