

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Pertaining to Test Procedures for External Power Supplies (“EPSs”)

#### 1. What is the purpose of this notice?

In this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”), the DOE proposes to amend the test procedure for external power supplies (EPSs). The proposed amendments would ensure that the test procedure for EPSs 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. 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 change is the Department proposing to make?

In this NOPR, DOE proposes the following updates to the test procedure for EPSs:

- Add a definition for “commercial and industrial power supply” to provide clarity on power supplies that are excluded from the external power supply requirements because they are not used to operate a consumer product.
- Amend the testing requirements for USB-PD EPSs to align the regulatory test method for these external power supplies with the alternative test method required by a [March 16, 2018 waiver](#). DOE additionally proposes to explicitly specify the testing requirements for adaptive and switch selectable EPSs that are also multiple-voltage EPSs.
- Provide explicit instructions for testing single-voltage EPSs with multiple output busses.
- Provide instructions to allow any functionality that is unrelated to the external power supply circuit to be disconnected during testing as long as the disconnection does not impact the functionality of the EPS supply itself.
- Improve the readability of the test procedure by centralizing definitions, consolidating generally applicable requirements, and better delineating testing requirements for single-voltage, multiple-voltage, and adaptive EPSs.

#### 3. What is an EPS?

External Power Supplies convert household electric current into DC current or lower-voltage AC current to operate a consumer product. EPSs are used with hundreds of end-use products including consumer electronics, computer and accessories, power tools, cordless phones, household items, and more.

#### 4. How much energy do EPSs consume?

National annual primary energy consumption for these products is 0.05 quads, which makes up 0.25% of total residential energy consumption in the US.

#### 5. How many EPSs are shipped annually in the United States?

More than 300 million EPSs are shipped annually.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of EPSs, manufacturers of end-use products that use EPSs, 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 [EPS2019TP0012@ee.doe.gov](mailto:EPS2019TP0012@ee.doe.gov), identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-TP-2012.