

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers, and Freezers

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

This Request for Information (“RFI”) initiates the review process outlined by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, and seeks input from the public regarding consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers. Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers would result in significant energy savings and whether such standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified. This RFI is part of DOE’s ongoing commitment to consider feedback from all interested stakeholders and promote an open and transparent rulemaking process.

2. What type of information is the Department looking for?

DOE seeks feedback on the current consumer refrigerator, refrigerator-freezer, and freezer product definitions and products classes and whether changes are necessary. DOE also seeks information on the market adoption of, costs of, and concerns with new technological developments for consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers, such as alternative HFC-free refrigerants. DOE also requests input on any expected market trends for new features, such as connected functionality, door-in-door designs, or display screens, which may impact total energy consumption. DOE additionally requests information on the market for consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers, including historical shipments, distribution channels, repair and maintenance costs, and manufacturer information.

3. What is a consumer refrigerator, refrigerator-freezer, and freezer?

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.

4. How much energy do consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers consume?

On average, consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers consume 384 kWh, 588 kWh, and 555 kWh per year, respectively. In 2016, refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers used 1.25 quads per year of primary energy, which accounted for about 6.1 percent of residential electricity use and 1.3 percent of total U.S. energy use.

5. How many consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers consume are shipped annually in the United States?

The estimated annual shipments in 2016 were 16.3 million.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of consumer refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers, 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 45 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 www.regulations.gov or via email to ConsumerRefrigeratorFreezer2017STD0003@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-STD-0003. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.