

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Air-cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioning and Heating Equipment and Commercial Warm Air Furnaces

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 to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) with its determination about whether amended energy conservation standards are warranted for air-cooled commercial package air conditioning and heating equipment (referred to as air-cooled commercial unitary air conditioners and heat pumps (“ACUACs and ACUHPs”)) and commercial warm air furnaces (“CWAFFs”).

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for ACUACs, ACUHPs, and CWAFFs 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 is soliciting information and data regarding the current standards for ACUACs, ACUHPs, and CWAFFs, and the state of the market, in particular regarding information on efficiency distribution of the equipment currently available on the market and how the market may change in response to pending increases in the stringency of the required standards.

3. What are ACUACs, ACUHPs and CWAFFs?

ACUACs and ACUHPs are broad equipment categories within the general equipment type of commercial packaged air conditioning and heating equipment regulated by DOE. This equipment primarily provides space cooling and heating for commercial buildings. CWAFFs are furnaces that have a rated maximum input capacity of 225,000 Btu/h or more. CWAFFs are self-contained, oil-fired, or gas-fired furnaces designed to supply heated air through ducts to spaces that require it and include combination warm air furnace/electric air conditioning units but does not include unit heaters and duct furnaces.

4. How much energy do ACUACs, ACUHPs and CWAFFs consume?

ACUACs and ACUHPs consume, in aggregate, approximately 1.6 quads/year of full-fuel-cycle energy in the United States and account for about 8.5 percent of commercial buildings’ energy use. CWAFFs consume, in the aggregate approximately 0.87 quads per year of primary energy and account for 4.6 percent of commercial buildings’ energy use.

5. How many ACUACs and CWAFFs are shipped annually in the United States?

There were about 285,500 ACUACs and CUHPs shipped in 2018. There were about 219,000 CWAFFs shipped in 2018.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of ACUACs, ACUHPs, and CWAFFs, 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 30 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 PkgHVACFurnace2019STD0042@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-STD-0042. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.