

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Test Procedures for Consumer Boilers

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 and seeks input from the public to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) with its determination about whether amended test procedures are warranted for consumer boilers.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the test procedures for consumer boilers would more accurately or fully comply with the requirements for the test procedures to not be unduly burdensome to conduct and be 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 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?

In this RFI, DOE seeks information related to its determination of whether to amend the current consumer boiler test procedure. The RFI requests information regarding consumer boiler test procedure scope and definitions, updates to industry test standards, and test conditions, procedures, and calculations.

3. What is a consumer boiler?

A consumer boiler is a fuel-burning or electrically heated appliance that supplies low-pressure steam or hot water for residential space-heating applications. A consumer boiler is designed to be the principal heating source for the living space of a residence.

4. How much energy do consumer boilers consume?

Consumer boilers used approximately 1.01 quads of annual energy in 2015, which equals about 1 percent of the total U.S. primary energy consumption.

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

DOE estimates the residential boiler shipments in 2018 were around 364,000 units.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of consumer boilers, 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 ConsumerBoilers2019TP0037@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-TP-0037. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.