

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for External Power Supplies

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 External Power Supplies (“EPSs”).

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for EPSs 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?

In this RFI, DOE seeks information related to the following items: the classification of specific types of EPSs, technologies or performance characteristics that are currently available on the market, new and emerging technologies related to EPSs, ranges of efficiencies, and shipment data.

3. What is an EPS?

EPSs 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. EPS efficiency ranges from 55% to 95%, and they use a fraction of a watt in standby mode.

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 270 million EPSs are shipped annually.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of 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 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 <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to EPS2020STD0006@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2020-BT-STD-0006. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.