

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Request for Information Pertaining to Test Procedures for Residential and Commercial Clothes Washers

#### 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 residential clothes washers (“RCWs”) and commercial clothes washers (“CCWs”).

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether it is necessary to amend the test procedures for clothes washers in order to ensure that the test procedures are not unduly burdensome to conduct and reasonably designed to produce test results that reflect energy efficiency, energy and water 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 as to whether there have been changes in product testing methodology or new products on the market since the last test procedure update that may create the need to make amendments to the test procedures. DOE also seeks data and information as to whether the current test procedures produce results that are representative of an average use cycle for the product and are not unduly burdensome to conduct, and therefore do not need amendment. Further, DOE requests comment on product definitions and configurations, testing conditions and instrumentation, measurement methods, representative usage and efficiency factors, and metric definitions.

#### 3. What is a clothes washer?

RCWs are consumer appliances designed to clean clothes, utilizing a water solution of soap and/or detergent and mechanical agitation or other movement. RCWs are designed for use in individual households, in contrast to CCWs, which are designed for use in multi-family buildings or laundromats.

#### 4. How much energy do clothes washers consume?

Per unit, baseline top-loading and front-loading RCWs consume on average 316 kWh and 152 kWh per year, respectively. Nationally, RCWs use approximately 1.0 quads/year of primary energy, which represents roughly 5% of total residential energy use, and 1% of total U.S. energy use. Nationally, CCWs use 0.02 quads/year of primary energy, and account for approximately 0.13% of total commercial energy use and 0.02% of total U.S. energy use.

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

In 2017, the total shipments of RCWs were approximately 9.9 million. In 2011 (the most recent year available), the total shipments of CCWs were approximately 161,000.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of clothes washers, 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 RFI 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 [ResClothesWasher2016TP0011@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ResClothesWasher2016TP0011@ee.doe.gov), identified with docket number EERE-2016-BT-TP-0011. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.