

Frequently Asked Questions

Notice of Proposed Determination Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Evaporatively-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners and Water-Cooled Commercial Package Air Conditioners

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

In this Notice of Proposed Determination (“NOPD”), the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) proposes not to amend the energy conservation standard for evaporatively-cooled commercial package air conditioners and water-cooled commercial package air conditioners (referred to herein as “ECUACs” and “WCUACs”, respectively). DOE has tentatively determined that more-stringent, amended standards would not result in significant energy savings. In this NOPD, DOE also announces a comment period to receive comment on these proposed standards and associated analyses and results.

This NOPD 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 NOPD, DOE has initially determined that energy conservation standards for ECUACs and WCUACs do not need to be amended as there is not clear and convincing evidence that amended standards would result in significant energy savings. DOE requests comment and data on its tentative determinations regarding the energy savings from amended standards for ECUACs and WCUACs.

3. What are ECUACs and WCUACs?

ECUACs and WCUACs are two broad equipment categories within the general equipment type of commercial packaged air conditioners regulated by DOE. This equipment primarily provides space cooling for commercial buildings. ECUAC and WCUAC equipment classes are distinguished by cooling capacity, heat rejection medium (evaporative cooling or water), and heating mechanism.

4. How much energy do ECUACs and WCUACs consume?

Annual energy consumption is commensurate with size, with the largest class by shipments having annual per-unit energy consumption of approximately 40,000 kWh. National full-fuel-cycle (“FFC”) energy consumption for both is estimated at 0.006 quads, which is less than 0.04 percent of national commercial FFC energy use and less than 0.5 percent of national commercial cooling FFC energy use.

5. How many ECUACs and WCUACs are shipped annually in the United States?

Combined, shipments are estimated at less than 1,300 units per year.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of ECUACs and WCUACs, 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 75 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 WCandECUAC2017STD0032@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-STD-0032. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.