

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Early Assessment Request for Information Pertaining to Test Procedures for Portable Air Conditioners

#### 1. What is the purpose of this notice?

This Early Assessment 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 portable air conditioners.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the test procedures for portable air conditioners 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 Early Assessment 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 Early Assessment RFI, DOE 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. DOE also seeks information regarding the availability of consensus-based test procedures for measuring the energy use that could be adopted with or without modification; and that may more accurately or fully comply with the statutory requirements regarding representativeness and burden.

#### 3. What is a portable air conditioner?

A portable air conditioner is a portable encased assembly, other than a “packaged terminal air conditioner,” “room air conditioner,” or “dehumidifier,” that delivers cooled, conditioned air to an enclosed space, and is powered by single-phase electric current. It includes a source of refrigeration and may include additional means for air circulation and heating.

#### 4. How much energy do portable air conditioners consume?

DOE estimates that in 2019, portable air conditioners used around 0.16 quads of primary energy, which accounted for 0.7% percent of residential primary energy use.

#### 5. How many portable air conditioners are shipped annually in the United States?

Total shipments of portable air conditioners in 2019 were approximately 1.36 million.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of portable air conditioners, 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 [PortableAC2020TP0029@ee.doe.gov](mailto:PortableAC2020TP0029@ee.doe.gov), identified with docket number EERE-2020-BT-TP-0029. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.