

Frequently Asked Questions

Notice of Proposed Determination Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment

1. What is the purpose of this notice?

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (“EPCA”) requires the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) to periodically review the energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment and publish either a notice of determination that standards for the product do not need to be amended, or a notice of proposed rulemaking including new proposed energy conservation standards. In this Notice of Proposed Determination (“NOPD”), DOE has initially determined that energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment do not need to be amended. In this NOPD, DOE also announces a webinar and public comment period to receive comment on the proposed determination 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 proposes to determine that energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment do not need to be amended because more stringent standards would not be technologically feasible or economically justified, depending on the product class. DOE has tentatively reached this determination following an analysis of the technological feasibility and economic justification of amended standards for direct heating equipment and whether more stringent standards would result in significant energy savings. In this NOPD, DOE requests comment on its proposed determination that standards for direct heating equipment do not need to be amended, and on the associated analyses and results supporting the proposed determination.

3. What is Direct Heating Equipment?

Direct heating equipment are space heating products that furnish warmed air directly to the space being heated (i.e., without using ducts). Direct heating equipment use fossil fuel and/or electricity to provide heat to living spaces, are typically installed through or adjacent to an exterior wall or through the floor and can be either vented or unvented.

4. How much energy do Direct Heating Equipment consume?

In 2018, the national annual primary energy consumption of direct heating equipment was approximately 0.18 quads, which accounted for about 0.9 percent of residential building energy use and 0.2 percent of total U.S. energy use.

5. How many direct heating equipment are shipped annually in the United States?

DOE estimates that direct heating equipment shipments in 2018 were around 120,000 units.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of direct heating equipment, 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 60 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 DHE2019STD0002@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-TP-0002. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.