

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Test Procedures for Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners and Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps

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 Packaged Terminal Air Conditioners (“PTACs”) and Packaged Terminal Heat Pumps (“PTHPs”)

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the test procedures for PTACs and PTHPs 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.

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 regarding the testing of PTACs and PTHP. In particular, DOE is requesting information related to dehumidification, the energy use associated with this function of PTACs and PTHPs, how to best capture this energy use in a test procedure, and the market size for units with this capability. DOE is also interested in information on the appropriateness and applicability of part-load operation of PTACs and PTHPs.

3. What are PTACs and PTHPs?

A PTAC is a wall sleeve and a separate unencased combination of heating and cooling assemblies intended for mounting through the wall. It includes a prime source of refrigeration, separable outdoor louvers, forced ventilation, and heating availability by builder's choice of hot water, steam, or electricity. A PTHP is a PTAC that utilizes reverse cycle refrigeration as its prime heat source and has a supplementary heat source available, with the choice of hot water, steam, or electric resistant heat.

4. How much energy do PTACs and PTHPs consume?

Nationally, PTACs and PTHPs use 0.02 quads per year of primary energy and account for 0.13 percent of total commercial energy use.

5. How many PTACs and PTHPs are shipped annually in the United States?

Approximately 515,000 PTACs and PTHPs were shipped in 2018.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of PTACs and PTHPs, trade associations, distributors, energy utilities, state agencies, 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 eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via email to PTACHP2019TP0027@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-TP-0027. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.