

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards 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, as amended, and seeks input from the public to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) with its determination about whether amended energy conservation standards 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 energy efficiency requirements for PTACs and PTHPs would result in significant energy savings and whether such standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified.

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 comment on the appropriateness of the current PTAC and PTHP equipment classes and whether changes to these individual equipment classes should be made. DOE requests information regarding technology options for improving equipment efficiency based on the current test procedure, as well technology options in the event that DOE were to amend the test procedure to include a part-load efficiency metric. DOE is requesting information related to PTAC and PTHP units that provide dehumidification, and if these units should have a separate equipment class. DOE requests comment on the approach for conducting an engineering analysis to develop cost-efficiency relationships, including information on efficiency distribution of PTACs and PTHPs currently available on the market and appropriate efficiency levels to consider. Finally, DOE requests comment on the distribution channels used by manufacturers, repair and maintenance costs, annual shipments by equipment class, data on equipment lifetime, and if there are any small business manufacturers 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 approximately 0.024 quads per year of primary energy, which represents 0.13% of 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, 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 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 PTACHP2019STD0035@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-STD-0035. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.