

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks

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 Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks 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 information related to technology options to improve insulation effectiveness or otherwise reduce standby losses, shipment data, equipment lifetime characteristics, anticipated energy analysis methodology, installation practices, and other issues related to Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks.

3. What is an Unfired Hot Water Storage Tank?

Unfired hot water storage tanks are tanks used to store water that is heated externally, and are generally used in commercial or industrial applications. This equipment is typically paired in the field with boilers or water heaters that provide hot water to be stored in the tank. Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks do not directly consume energy, although their standby losses impact the energy consumption of the paired water heater or boiler.

4. How much energy do Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks consume?

Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks do not directly consume any energy, although their standby losses directly impact the energy consumption of the equipment that provides the hot water that is stored in the tank. However, the magnitude of these standby losses is unknown.

5. How many Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks are shipped annually in the United States?

The number of annual shipments of Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks is currently unknown.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of Unfired Hot Water Storage Tanks, 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 45 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 UnfiredCommercialWH2017STD0021@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-STD-0021. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.