

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Single Package Vertical Air Conditioners and Single Package Vertical 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 single package vertical air conditioners (“SPVACs”) and single package vertical heat pumps (“SPVHPs”), collectively referred to as single package vertical units (“SPVUs”).

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for SPVUs 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 SPVU 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 requests comment on the approach for conducting an engineering analysis to develop cost-efficiency relationships, including information on efficiency distribution of SPVUs 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 SPVUs.

3. What is an SPVU?

SPVUs are a category of commercial package air conditioning and heating equipment. This equipment is factory-assembled as a single package and has major components that are arranged vertically. SPVUs are intended for exterior mounting on, adjacent interior to, or through an outside wall. SPVUs are mainly used for cooling and heating classrooms, modular buildings, telecommunication shelters, and portable buildings.

4. How much energy do SPVUs consume?

Nationally, SPVU’s use approximately 0.1 quads per year of primary energy, which represents 0.6% of commercial energy use and 0.1% of total U.S. energy use.

5. How many SPVUs are shipped annually in the United States?

The estimated annual shipments in 2017 were 48,242 for SPVACs and 19,101 for SPVHPs.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of SPVUs, 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 SPVU2019STD0033@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-STD-0033. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.