

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Water Heaters

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 consumer water heaters.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy efficiency requirements for consumer water heaters 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 requests information about technology options to improve efficiency, shipment data, product lifetime characteristics, anticipated energy analysis methodology, installation practices, and other issues related to consumer water heaters.

3. What is a consumer water heater?

Consumer water heaters utilize gas, oil, or electricity to provide domestic hot water for residences. These products can be either storage-type, which are designed to heat and store water for use on demand, or instantaneous-type, which are designed to heat water instantaneously upon demand and typically have little or no stored water (*i.e.*, are “tankless”).

4. How much energy do consumer water heaters consume?

In 2018, the national annual primary energy consumption of consumer water heaters was approximately 2.6 Quads, which accounts for 13% of residential household primary energy use in the U.S.

5. How many consumer water heaters are shipped annually in the United States?

In 2018, shipments of consumer water heaters were approximately 9.6 million units.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of consumer water heaters, 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 ConsumerWaterHeaters2017STD0019@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2017-BT-TP-0019. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.