

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Information Pertaining to Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Clothes Washers

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 commercial clothes washers.

Information received in response to this request will help DOE determine whether amending the energy and water efficiency requirements for commercial clothes washers 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 the U.S. commercial clothes washer industry, technology, and market, and whether there have been sufficient technological or market changes since the most recent standards update that may justify a new rulemaking to consider more stringent standards. Specifically, DOE seeks data and information that could enable the agency to determine whether DOE should propose a “no new standard” determination because a more stringent standard: (1) would not result in a significant savings of energy and water; (2) is not technologically feasible; (3) is not economically justified; or (4) any combination of foregoing

3. What is a commercial clothes washer?

Commercial clothes washers are soft-mounted clothes washers (*i.e.*, they are not required to be bolted to a steel or concrete slab) designed for use in applications in which the occupants of more than one household will be using the clothes washer, such as multi-family housing laundries and coin laundries, and other commercial applications. DOE equipment coverage includes commercial clothes washers with the following clothing container capacities:

- For horizontal-axis clothes washers, not more than 3.5 cubic feet;
- For vertical-axis clothes washers, not more than 4.0 cubic feet.

4. How much energy do commercial clothes washers consume?

Nationally, commercial clothes washers use approximately 0.02 quads/year of primary energy, which represents roughly 0.13% of total commercial energy use and 0.02% of total U.S. energy use.

5. How many commercial clothes washers are shipped annually in the United States?

In 2013 (the most recent year available), annual shipments of commercial clothes washers totaled approximately 200,000, of which approximately 75% were top-loading clothes washers and 25% were front-loading clothes washers.

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

Interested parties include manufacturers of commercial clothes washers, 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 60 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 CommClothesWashers2019STD0044@ee.doe.gov, identified with docket number EERE-2019-BT-STD-0044. Comments may also be submitted via postal mail or hand delivery by following the instructions found in the document.