

Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Small businesses.

### Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on May 9, 2025, by Chris Wright, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 9, 2025.

**Jennifer Hartzell,**

*Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
U.S. Department of Energy.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, DOE is proposing to amend part 430 of chapter II, subchapter D, of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

### PART 430—ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS

■ 1. The authority citation for part 430 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 6291–6309; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.

■ 2. Amend § 430.32 by:

- a. Removing paragraph (j)(2); and
- b. Redesignating paragraph (j)(3) as paragraph (j)(2).

[FR Doc. 2025–08623 Filed 5–12–25; 1:15 pm]

**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

#### 10 CFR Part 430

[EERE–2025–BT–STD–002]

RIN 1904–AF92

#### Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** DOE is proposing to rescind the amended water use standards for residential clothes washers. If finalized, this will return the water use

requirement for clothes washers to the statutory water factor of not more than 9.5.

#### DATES:

**Comments:** Comments must be received on or before July 15, 2025.

**Meeting:** DOE will hold a meeting via a webinar on Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. See section III of this document, “Public Participation,” for webinar registration information, participant instructions and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0022. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments, identified by docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0022, by any of the following methods:

(1) **Email:**

[ResClothesWashers2025STD0022@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ResClothesWashers2025STD0022@ee.doe.gov). Include the docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0022 in the subject line of the message. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, PDF, or ASCII file format, and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption.

(2) **Postal Mail:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE–5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 287–1445. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (“CD”), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

(3) **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 287–1445. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

No telefacsimiles (“faxes”) will be accepted. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on this process, see section III of this document.

**Docket:** The docket for this proposed rulemaking, which includes **Federal Register** notices, public meeting attendee lists and transcripts (if one is held), comments, and other supporting documents and materials, is available for review at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). All documents in the docket are listed in the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) index. However, not all documents listed in

the index may be publicly available, such as information that is exempt from public disclosure.

The docket web page can be found at [www.regulations.gov/docket/ResClothesWashers2025STD0022@ee.doe.gov](http://www.regulations.gov/docket/ResClothesWashers2025STD0022@ee.doe.gov). The docket web page contains instructions on how to access all documents, including public comments, in the docket, as well as a summary of the rulemaking. See section, “Public Participation,” for further information on how to submit comments through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Taggart, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel, GC–1, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 586–5281. Email: [DOEGeneralCounsel@hq.doe.gov](mailto:DOEGeneralCounsel@hq.doe.gov).

For further information on how to submit a comment or review other public comments and the docket contact the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program staff at (202) 287–1445 or by email: [ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov).

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##### I. General Discussion

DOE is proposing to rescind the regulatory water use requirements for residential clothes washers, codified in title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”) 430.32(g). For a “top-loading or front-loading standard-size residential clothes washer” manufactured on or after January 1,

2011, Congress has set the water factor to not more than 9.5. (42 U.S.C. 6295(g)(9)) DOE, by regulation, has set more stringent requirements. For clothes washers manufactured after 2018, DOE has set the water factor for top-loading compact, top-loading standard, front-loading compact, and front-loading standard clothes washers to 12, 6.5, 8.3, and 4.7. 10 CFR 430.32(g)(1). A lower water factor is more efficient. For clothes washers manufactured after March 1, 2028, the DOE regulations switch to a water efficiency ratio. For top-loading ultracompact, top-loading standard, front-loading compact, and front-loading standard clothes washers the water efficiency ratio must be at least 0.29, 0.57, 0.71, and 0.77 respectively. 10 CFR 430.32(g)(2). After March 1, 2028, the DOE regulations also add a new category, semi-automatic clothes washers, which must have a water efficiency ratio of at least 0.27. *Id.*

DOE proposes to rescind these regulatory water use standards in their entirety and seeks comment on all aspects of that proposal. The rescission will return the water use requirements for top-loading or front-loading standard-size residential clothes washers to the standard in 42 U.S.C. 6295(g)(9), which is water factor of not more than 9.5. Compact clothes washers, under the statute, do not have a water factor requirement. DOE is proposing to rescind these regulations for multiple independent reasons, including but not limited to the following.

*First*, DOE has reconsidered the statutory authority for its water use regulations of clothes washers and concluded that the authority likely does not permit the regulations. As one court has suggested, “EPCA does not appear to contemplate overlap between the products subject to ‘energy’ regulation and those subject to ‘water’ regulation.” *Louisiana v. United States DOE*, 90 F.4th 461, 470 (5th Cir. 2024). Clothes washers use energy, so DOE can seemingly regulate the amount of energy used, but not the water use.

EPCA defines “energy conservation standard” as “a performance standard which prescribes a minimum level of energy efficiency or a maximum quantity of energy use, or, in the case of showerheads, faucets, water closets, and urinals, water use.” 42 U.S.C. 6291(6)(A). EPCA further defines “water use” as “the quantity of water flowing through a showerhead, faucet, water closet, or urinal at point of use.” 42 U.S.C. 6291(31)(A); *see also* 42 U.S.C. 6293(b)(3) (dividing energy use and water use for test procedures); 42 U.S.C. 6295(o) (similar). A clothes washer, no

matter the type, is not a showerhead, faucet, water closet, or urinal. Therefore, EPCA does not seem to contemplate DOE regulating the water use of clothes washers.

Under the initial EPCA, DOE did not regulate water use at all. Water use was added later, and was specifically limited to showerheads, faucets, water closets, and urinals. Even though Congress itself has set the water use for standard size clothes washers in section 6295(g)(9), the plain text of EPCA does not seem to permit DOE to change those standards, much less add new standards for compact clothes washers. Therefore, DOE seeks comment on all aspects of DOE’s statutory authority as relevant to the water use regulations of clothes washers.

*Second*, the Secretary has tentatively found that the water use regulations are not economically justified. Among other factors, the regulatory water use restrictions appear to lessen the utility of clothes washers by lengthening the time it takes to wash clothes. 85 FR 68727. And the regulations are not consistent with the need for national water conservation. Consumers are best situated to decide whether a given product is economically justified, as that is precisely what the free market does best.

*Third*, the Secretary is proposing a new policy to reduce regulatory burden wherever possible. Unless a regulatory standard is required by statute, the secretary proposes eliminating that requirement. DOE’s new policy would support energy and water abundance, allowing Americans to produce and consume as much energy and water as they desire.

DOE has tentatively determined that there is no reliance interest in an unlawful regulation. *See Dep’t of Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of California*, 591 U.S. 1, 32 (2020). These proposed rescissions are not designed to achieve a maximum reduction in water efficiency or use because the Secretary has tentatively determined that the current regulations are unlawful, that they are not economically justified, and that they are inconsistent with the policy of maximally reducing regulatory burdens. *See* 42 U.S.C. 6295(p)(1). These are the same reasons that DOE is considering the change of position that is contemplated by this proposed rule. DOE seeks comments on any reason to rescind or not rescind these regulations.

## II. Procedural Issues and Regulatory Review

### A. Review Under Executive Order 12866

Executive Order (“E.O.”) 12866, “Regulatory Planning and Review,” requires agencies, to the extent permitted by law, to (1) propose or adopt a regulation only upon a reasoned determination that its benefits justify its costs; (2) tailor regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives, taking into account, among other things, and to the extent practicable, the costs of cumulative regulations; (3) select, in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, those approaches that maximize net benefits; (4) to the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than specifying the behavior or manner of compliance that regulated entities must adopt; and (5) identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including providing economic incentives to encourage the desired behavior, such as user fees or marketable permits, or providing information upon which choices can be made by the public.

### B. Review Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) requires preparation of an initial regulatory flexibility analysis (“IRFA”) and a final regulatory flexibility analysis (“FRFA”) for any rule that by law must be proposed for public comment, unless the agency certifies that the rule, if promulgated, will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. As required by E.O. 13272, “Proper Consideration of Small Entities in Agency Rulemaking,” 67 FR 53461 (Aug. 16, 2002), DOE published procedures and policies on February 19, 2003, to ensure that the potential impacts of its rules on small entities are properly considered during the rulemaking process. 68 FR 7990. DOE has made its procedures and policies available on the Office of the General Counsel’s website ([www.energy.gov/gc/office-general-counsel](http://www.energy.gov/gc/office-general-counsel)).

DOE reviewed this proposed rule under the provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the policies and procedures published on February 19, 2003. If adopted, this proposal eliminates standards. Therefore, DOE initially concludes that the impacts of the proposed rule would not have a “significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities,” and that the preparation of an IRFA is not warranted. DOE will transmit this certification and supporting statement

of factual basis to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration for review under 5 U.S.C. 605(b).

#### *C. Review Under the Paperwork Reduction Act*

This proposed rule imposes no new information or record-keeping requirements. Accordingly, OMB clearance is not required under the Paperwork Reduction Act. (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

#### *D. Review Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*

DOE is analyzing this proposed action in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (“NEPA”) and DOE’s NEPA implementing regulations (10 CFR part 1021). DOE’s regulations include categorical exclusions for certain rulemakings. See 10 CFR part 1021, subpart D, appendices A and B. DOE is considering the categorical exclusions potentially applicable to this proposed rule, such as B5.1, and welcomes comment on the potential application of categorical exclusion(s). DOE will complete its NEPA review before issuing the final rule.

#### *E. Review Under Executive Order 13132*

E.O. 13132, “Federalism,” 64 FR 43255 (Aug. 10, 1999), imposes certain requirements on Federal agencies formulating and implementing policies or regulations that preempt State law or that have federalism implications. The Executive order requires agencies to examine the constitutional and statutory authority supporting any action that would limit the policymaking discretion of the States and to carefully assess the necessity for such actions. The Executive order also requires agencies to have an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism implications. On March 14, 2000, DOE published a statement of policy describing the intergovernmental consultation process it will follow in the development of such regulations. 65 FR 13735.

DOE has examined this proposed rule and has tentatively determined that it would not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. EPCA governs and prescribes Federal preemption of State regulations as to energy conservation for the products that are the subject of this proposed

rescission. States can petition DOE for exemption from such preemption to the extent, and based on criteria, set forth in EPCA. (42 U.S.C. 6297) Therefore, no further action is required by E.O. 13132.

#### *F. Review Under Executive Order 12988*

With respect to the review of existing regulations and the promulgation of new regulations, section 3(a) of E.O. 12988, “Civil Justice Reform,” imposes on Federal agencies the general duty to adhere to the following requirements: (1) eliminate drafting errors and ambiguity, (2) write regulations to minimize litigation, (3) provide a clear legal standard for affected conduct rather than a general standard, and (4) promote simplification and burden reduction. 61 FR 4729 (Feb. 7, 1996). Regarding the review required by section 3(a), section 3(b) of E.O. 12988 specifically requires that Executive agencies make every reasonable effort to ensure that the regulation (1) clearly specifies the preemptive effect, if any, (2) clearly specifies any effect on existing Federal law or regulation, (3) provides a clear legal standard for affected conduct while promoting simplification and burden reduction, (4) specifies the retroactive effect, if any, (5) adequately defines key terms, and (6) addresses other important issues affecting clarity and general draftsmanship under any guidelines issued by the Attorney General.

Section 3(c) of E.O. 12988 requires Executive agencies to review regulations in light of applicable standards in section 3(a) and section 3(b) to determine whether they are met or it is unreasonable to meet one or more of them. DOE has completed the required review and determined that, to the extent permitted by law, this proposed rule meets the relevant standards of E.O. 12988.

#### *G. Review Under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act*

Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (“UMRA”) requires each Federal agency to assess the effects of Federal regulatory actions on State, local, and Tribal governments and the private sector. Public Law 104–4, sec. 201 (codified at 2 U.S.C. 1531). For a regulatory action likely to result in a rule that may cause the expenditure by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100 million or more in any one year (adjusted annually for inflation), section 202 of UMRA requires a Federal agency to publish a written statement that estimates the resulting costs, benefits, and other effects on the national economy. (2 U.S.C. 1532(a), (b)) The

UMRA also requires a Federal agency to develop an effective process to permit timely input by elected officers of State, local, and Tribal governments on a “significant intergovernmental mandate,” and requires an agency plan for giving notice and opportunity for timely input to potentially affected small governments before establishing any requirements that might significantly or uniquely affect them. On March 18, 1997, DOE published a statement of policy on its process for intergovernmental consultation under UMRA. 62 FR 12820. DOE’s policy statement is also available at [www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/gcprod/documents/umra\\_97.pdf](http://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/gcprod/documents/umra_97.pdf).

DOE examined this proposed rule according to UMRA and its statement of policy and determined that the proposed rescission does not contain a Federal intergovernmental mandate, nor is it expected to require expenditures of \$100 million or more in any one year by State, local, and Tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector. As a result, the analytical requirements of UMRA do not apply.

#### *H. Review Under the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999*

Section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 1999 (Pub. L. 105–277) requires Federal agencies to issue a Family Policymaking Assessment for any rule that may affect family well-being. This proposed rule would not have any impact on the autonomy or integrity of the family as an institution. Accordingly, DOE has concluded that it is not necessary to prepare a Family Policymaking Assessment.

#### *I. Review Under Executive Order 12630*

Pursuant to E.O. 12630, “Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights,” 53 FR 8859 (March 18, 1988), DOE has determined that this proposed rule would not result in any takings that might require compensation under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

#### *J. Review Under the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001*

Section 515 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, 2001 (44 U.S.C. 3516, note) provides for Federal agencies to review most disseminations of information to the public under information quality guidelines established by each agency pursuant to general guidelines issued by OMB. OMB’s guidelines were published

at 67 FR 8452 (Feb. 22, 2002), and DOE's guidelines were published at 67 FR 62446 (Oct. 7, 2002). Pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-19-15, Improving Implementation of the Information Quality Act (April 24, 2019), DOE published updated guidelines which are available at: <https://www.energy.gov/cio/department-energy-information-quality-guidelines>. DOE has reviewed this proposed rule under the OMB and DOE guidelines and has concluded that it is consistent with applicable policies in those guidelines.

#### K. Review Under Executive Order 13211

E.O. 13211, "Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use," 66 FR 28355 (May 22, 2001), requires Federal agencies to prepare and submit to OIRA at OMB, a Statement of Energy Effects for any significant energy action. A "significant energy action" is defined as any action by an agency that promulgates or is expected to lead to promulgation of a final rule, and that: (1) is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866, or any successor order and is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy; or (2) is designated by the Administrator of OIRA as a significant energy action. For any significant energy action, the agency must give a detailed statement of any adverse effects on energy supply, distribution, or use should the proposal be implemented, and of reasonable alternatives to the action and their expected benefits on energy supply, distribution, and use.

This proposed rule is not a significant regulatory action under E.O. 12866. Moreover, it would not have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy, nor has it been designated as such by the Administrator at OIRA. Accordingly, DOE has not prepared a Statement of Energy Effects.

#### L. Review Under the Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review

On December 16, 2004, OMB, in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy ("OSTP"), issued its Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review ("the Bulletin"). 70 FR 2664 (Jan. 14, 2005). The Bulletin establishes that certain scientific information shall be peer reviewed by qualified specialists before it is disseminated by the Federal Government, including influential scientific information related to agency regulatory actions. The purpose of the Bulletin is to enhance the quality and credibility of the Government's

scientific information. Under the Bulletin, the energy conservation standards rulemaking analyses are "influential scientific information," which the Bulletin defines as "scientific information the agency reasonably can determine will have, or does have, a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions." 70 FR 2664, 2667. In response to OMB's Bulletin, DOE conducted formal peer reviews of the energy conservation standards development process and the analyses that are typically used and prepared a report describing that peer review.<sup>1</sup> Generation of this report involved a rigorous, formal, and documented evaluation using objective criteria and qualified and independent reviewers to make a judgment as to the technical/scientific/business merit, the actual or anticipated results, and the productivity and management effectiveness of programs and/or projects. Because available data, models, and technological understanding have changed since 2007, DOE has engaged with the National Academy of Sciences to review DOE's analytical methodologies to ascertain whether modifications are needed to improve the Department's analyses. DOE is in the process of evaluating the resulting report.<sup>2</sup>

#### M. Review Under Additional Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda

DOE has examined this proposed rule and has tentatively determined that it is consistent with the policies and directives outlined in E.O. 14154 "Unleashing American Energy," E.O. 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," and Presidential Memorandum, "Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis." This proposed rule, if finalized as proposed, is expected to be an Executive Order 14192 deregulatory action.

### III. Public Participation

#### A. Participation in the Webinar

The time, date, and location of the webinar listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections at the beginning of this document.

<sup>1</sup> The 2007 "Energy Conservation Standards Rulemaking Peer Review Report" is available at the following website: [www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/energy-conservation-standards-rulemaking-peer-review-report-0](https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/energy-conservation-standards-rulemaking-peer-review-report-0) (last accessed July 1, 2022).

<sup>2</sup> The report is available at [www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/review-of-methods-for-setting-building-and-equipment-performance-standards](https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/review-of-methods-for-setting-building-and-equipment-performance-standards).

Webinar registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants will be published on DOE's website: [www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/public-meetings-and-comment-deadlines](https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/public-meetings-and-comment-deadlines). Participants are responsible for ensuring their systems are compatible with the webinar software.

#### B. Procedure for Submitting Prepared General Statements for Distribution

Any person who has an interest in the topics addressed in this NOPR, or who is a representative of a group or class of persons that has an interest in these issues, may request an opportunity to make an oral presentation at the webinar. Such persons may submit requests, along with an advance electronic copy of their statement in PDF (preferred), Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or text (ASCII) file format, to the appropriate address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section at the beginning of this document. The request and advance copy of statements must be received at least one week before the webinar and are to be emailed. Please include a telephone number to enable DOE staff to make follow-up contact, if needed.

#### C. Conduct of the Webinar

DOE will designate a DOE official to preside at the webinar and may also use a professional facilitator to aid discussion. The meeting will not be a judicial or evidentiary-type public hearing, but DOE will conduct it in accordance with section 336 of EPCA. (42 U.S.C. 6306). A court reporter will be present to record the proceedings and prepare a transcript. DOE reserves the right to schedule the order of presentations and to establish the procedures governing the conduct of the public meeting. There shall not be discussion of proprietary information, costs or prices, market share, or other commercial matters regulated by U.S. anti-trust laws. After the public meeting, interested parties may submit further comments on the proceedings, as well as on any aspect of the proposed withdrawal of coverage, until the end of the comment period.

The webinar will be conducted in an informal, conference style. DOE will present a general overview of the topics addressed in this proposed rulemaking, allow time for prepared general statements by participants, and encourage all interested parties to share their views on issues affecting this proposed rulemaking. Each participant will be allowed to make a general statement (within time limits

determined by DOE), before the discussion of specific topics. DOE will allow, as time permits, other participants to comment briefly on any general statements.

At the end of all prepared statements on a topic, DOE will permit participants to clarify their statements briefly. Participants should be prepared to answer questions by DOE and by other participants concerning these issues. DOE representatives may also ask questions of participants concerning other matters relevant to this proposed rulemaking. The official conducting the public meeting will accept additional comments or questions from those attending, as time permits. The presiding official will announce any further procedural rules or modification of the previous procedures that may be needed for the proper conduct of the webinar.

A transcript of the public meeting will be included in the docket, which can be viewed as described in the Docket section at the beginning of this document and will be accessible on the DOE website. In addition, any person may buy a copy of the transcript from the transcribing reporter.

#### *D. Submission of Comments*

DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this proposed rule no later than the date provided in the **DATES** section at the beginning of this document. Interested parties may submit comments, data, and other information using any of the methods described in the **ADDRESSES** section at the beginning of this document.

*Submitting comments via www.regulations.gov.* The *www.regulations.gov* web page will require you to provide your name and contact information. Your contact information will be viewable to DOE Building Technologies staff only. Your contact information will not be publicly viewable except for your first and last names, organization name (if any), and submitter representative name (if any). If your comment is not processed properly because of technical difficulties, DOE will use this information to contact you. If DOE cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, DOE may not be able to consider your comment.

However, your contact information will be publicly viewable if you include it in the comment itself or in any documents attached to your comment. Any information that you do not want to be publicly viewable should not be included in your comment, nor in any document attached to your comment.

Otherwise, persons viewing comments will see only first and last names, organization names, correspondence containing comments, and any documents submitted with the comments.

Do not submit to *www.regulations.gov* information for which disclosure is restricted by statute, such as trade secrets and commercial or financial information (hereinafter referred to as Confidential Business Information (CBI)). Comments submitted through *www.regulations.gov* cannot be claimed as CBI. Comments received through the website will waive any CBI claims for the information submitted. For information on submitting CBI, see the Confidential Business Information section.

DOE processes submissions made through *www.regulations.gov* before posting. Normally, comments will be posted within a few days of being submitted. However, if large volumes of comments are being processed simultaneously, your comment may not be viewable for up to several weeks. Please keep the comment tracking number that *www.regulations.gov* provides after you have successfully uploaded your comment.

*Submitting comments via email, hand delivery/courier, or postal mail.*

Comments and documents submitted via email, hand delivery/courier, or postal mail also will be posted to *www.regulations.gov*. If you do not want your personal contact information to be publicly viewable, do not include it in your comments or any accompanying documents. Instead, provide your contact information in a cover letter. Include your first and last names, email address, telephone number, and optional mailing address. The cover letter will not be publicly viewable as long as it does not include any comments.

Include contact information each time you submit comments, data, documents, and other information to DOE. If you submit via postal mail or hand delivery/courier, please provide all items on a CD, if feasible, in which case it is not necessary to submit printed copies. No telefacsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

Comments, data, and other information submitted to DOE electronically should be provided in PDF (preferred), Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or text (ASCII) file format. Provide documents that are not secured, that are written in English, and that are free of any defects or viruses. Documents should not contain special characters or any form of encryption, and, if possible, they should carry the electronic signature of the author.

*Campaign form letters.* Please submit campaign form letters by the originating organization in batches of between 50 to 500 form letters per PDF or as one form letter with a list of supporters' names compiled into one or more PDFs. This reduces comment processing and posting time.

*Confidential Business Information.* Pursuant to 10 CFR 1004.11, any person submitting information that he or she believes to be confidential and exempt by law from public disclosure should submit via email, postal mail, or hand delivery/courier two well-marked copies: one copy of the document marked "confidential" including all the information believed to be confidential, and one copy of the document marked "non-confidential" with the information believed to be confidential deleted. DOE will make its own determination about the confidential status of the information and treat it according to its determination.

It is DOE's policy that all comments may be included in the public docket, without change and as received, including any personal information provided in the comments (except information deemed to be exempt from public disclosure).

#### **IV. Approval of the Office of the Secretary**

The Secretary of Energy has approved publication of this proposed rule; request for comments.

#### **List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 430**

Administrative practice and procedure, Confidential business information, Energy conservation, Household appliances, Imports, Incorporation by reference, Intergovernmental relations, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Small businesses.

#### **Signing Authority**

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on May 9, 2025, by Chris Wright, Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 9, 2025.

**Treena V. Garrett,**

*Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S.  
Department of Energy.*

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, DOE is proposing to amend part 430 of chapter II, subchapter D, of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth:

### **PART 430—ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS**

■ 1. The authority citation for part 430 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 6291–6309; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.

#### **§ 430.32 [Amended]**

■ 2. Amend § 430.32 by:

■ a. In paragraph (g)(1) introductory text, removing the text “, and an Integrated Water Factor no greater than”;

■ b. In the table to paragraph (g)(1), removing the third column with the heading “Integrated water factor (gal/cycle/cu.ft)”;

■ c. In paragraph (g)(2)(i) introductory text, removing the text “and a Water Efficiency Ration”;

■ d. In the table to paragraph (g)(2)(i), removing the third column with the heading “Water efficiency ratio (lb/gal/cycle)”.

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**BILLING CODE 6450–01–P**

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **10 CFR Part 430**

**[EERE–2025–BT–STD–0014]**

**RIN 1904–AF84**

### **Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Microwave Ovens**

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** DOE is proposing to rescind the energy conservation standards for microwave ovens. The rescission will eliminate the efficiency requirements for microwave ovens.

#### **DATES:**

*Comments:* Comments must be received on or before July 15, 2025.

*Meeting:* DOE will hold a webinar on Thursday, May 29, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. See section III, “Public

Participation,” for webinar registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0014. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments, identified by docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0014, by any of the following methods:

#### (1) *Email:*

*MicrowaveOvens2025STD0014@ee.doe.gov.* Include the docket number EERE–2025–BT–STD–0014 and/or RIN 1904–AF84 in the subject line of the message. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, PDF, or ASCII file format, and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption.

(2) *Postal Mail:* Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, Mailstop EE–5B, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 287–1445. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (“CD”), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

(3) *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Appliance and Equipment Standards Program, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Office, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 287–1445. If possible, please submit all items on a CD, in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies.

No telefacsimiles (“faxes”) will be accepted. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on this process, see section III, “Public Participation,” of this document.

*Docket:* The docket for this proposed rulemaking, which includes **Federal Register** notices, public meeting attendee lists and transcripts (if one is held), comments, and other supporting documents and materials, is available for review at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). All documents in the docket are listed in the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) index. However, not all documents listed in the index may be publicly available, such as information that is exempt from public disclosure.

The docket web page can be found at [www.regulations.gov/docket/EERE-2025-BT-STD-0014](http://www.regulations.gov/docket/EERE-2025-BT-STD-0014). The docket web page contains instructions on how to access all documents, including public

comments, in the docket, as well as a summary of the rulemaking. See section III of this document, “Public Participation,” for further information on how to submit comments through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. David Taggart, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel, GC–1, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585–0121. Telephone: (202) 586–5281. Email: [DOEGeneralCounsel@hq.doe.gov](mailto:DOEGeneralCounsel@hq.doe.gov).

For further information on how to submit a comment or review other public comments and the docket contact the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program staff at (202) 287–1445 or by email: [ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov).

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##### **I. General Discussion**

DOE is proposing to rescind the energy conservation standards for microwave ovens, codified in 10 CFR 430.32(j)(3). EPCA lists nineteen consumer products that are considered covered products under the statute, including kitchen ranges and ovens. 42 U.S.C. 6292(a)(1)–(19)). Under EPCA, DOE may add consumer products to the list of covered products for which energy conservation standards can be established. (42 U.S.C. 6292(b)(1)) The coverage determination procedures require DOE to conclude that classifying products of such type as covered