

of this subpart, until an Interim Waiver has been granted.

(3) *Criteria for granting.* The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will grant an Interim Waiver from test procedure requirements if he or she determines that the applicant will experience economic hardship if the Application for Interim Waiver is denied, if it appears likely that the Petition for Waiver will be granted, and/or if the Assistant Secretary determines that it would be desirable for public policy reasons to grant immediate relief pending a determination on the Petition for Waiver.

(4) *Duration.* An interim waiver will terminate 180 days after issuance or upon the determination on the Petition for Waiver, whichever occurs first. DOE may extend an interim waiver for up to 180 days or modify its terms based on relevant information contained in the record and any comments received subsequent to issuance of the interim waiver. DOE will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice of such extension and/or any modification of the terms or duration of the interim waiver.

(f) *Provisions specific to waivers—(1) Rebuttal by petitioner.* Following publication of the Petition for Waiver in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a petitioner may, within 10 working days of receipt of a copy of any comments submitted in accordance with paragraph (b)(1) of this section, submit a rebuttal statement to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. A petitioner may rebut more than one response in a single rebuttal statement.

(2) *Disposition of petition.* DOE will notify the petitioner in writing as soon as practicable of the disposition of each Petition for Waiver. The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will issue a decision on the petition as soon as is practicable following receipt and review of the Petition for Waiver and other applicable documents, including, but not limited to, comments and rebuttal statements.

(3) *Consequence of filing petition.* The filing of a Petition for Waiver will not constitute grounds for noncompliance with any requirements of this subpart, until a waiver or interim waiver has been granted.

(4) *Granting: criteria, conditions, and publication.* The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will grant a waiver if he or she determines that either the basic model for which the waiver was requested contains a design characteristic which prevents testing of the basic model according to the prescribed test procedures, or the prescribed test procedures may evaluate the basic model in a manner so unrepresentative of its true energy consumption characteristics as to provide materially inaccurate comparative data. The Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy may grant a waiver subject to conditions, which may include adherence to alternate test procedures. DOE will promptly publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice of each waiver granted or denied, and any limiting conditions of each waiver granted.

(g) *Revision of regulation.* Within one year of the granting of any waiver, the Department will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of proposed rulemaking to amend our regulations so as to eliminate any need for the continuation of such waiver. As soon thereafter as practicable, the Department will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a final rule. Such waiver will terminate on the effective date of such final rule.

(h) *Exhaustion of remedies.* In order to exhaust administrative remedies, any person aggrieved by an action under this Section must file an appeal with the DOE's Office of Hearings and Appeals as provided in 10 CFR Part 1003, subpart C.

§ 431.402 Preemption of State regulations for commercial HVAC & WH products.

Beginning on the effective date of such standard, an energy conservation standard set forth in this part for a commercial HVAC & WH product supersedes any State or local regulation concerning the energy efficiency or energy use of that product, except as provided for in Section 345(b)(2)(B)–(D) of the Act.