

# Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

#### 10 CFR Part 430

#### Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Workshop to Consider a Revised Approach for Analyzing the Manufacturer Impacts from New or Revised Appliance Energy-Efficiency Standards

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Workshop on a Revised Manufacturer Impact Analysis Approach.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (the Department or DOE) is convening a public workshop to discuss a new approach to assessing the likely impacts on manufacturers of appliance energy-efficiency standards that are under consideration by the Department. All persons are hereby given notice of the opportunity to attend and participate in the public workshop.

**DATES:** The workshop on a revised manufacturer impact analysis approach will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 11 and 12, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** A transcript of the workshop may be read at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-6020, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The Manufacturer Impact Analysis Workshop will be held in Room 1E-245, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585.

If you are planning to attend the workshop or wish to receive material prepared for the workshop, please contact either Qonnie Laughlin or Sandy Beall, as listed below.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Qonnie Laughlin, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Mail Station EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-9632.

Ms. Sandy Beall, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Mail Stop EE-43, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586-7574.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended by the National Energy Policy Conservation Act, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Amendments of 1988, and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, prescribes energy conservation standards for certain major appliances and equipment and requires the Department of Energy to administer an energy conservation program for the products. Earlier appliance rulemakings have highlighted the need to address a number of complex issues concerning the impact of standards on consumers and manufacturers. In response to these issues, the Department initiated a comprehensive process improvement effort to examine, through a series of stakeholder meetings and interviews, issues surrounding the appliance standards program. On July 15, 1996, (61 FR 36974) DOE issued Procedures for Consideration of New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Products final rule (process rule) resulting from the process improvement effort.

In the July 15, 1996, procedures, the Department committed to a comprehensive review of its existing methodology for analyzing the likely impacts on manufacturers of new or revised appliance minimum energy efficiency standards. In that review, the Department identified several ways to improve such analyses, and has incorporated these into a Manufacturer Impact Analysis Approach—Draft Workplan.

The Department intends to introduce for consideration and discussion its Draft Workplan at the Workshop that is the subject of this Notice.

A central feature of the draft approach is the incorporation of the industry-

provided Government Regulatory Impact Model (GRIM). The GRIM meets a number of the Department's objectives in revising the manufacturer impact analysis approach, in that the model is transparent, relatively easy to use, and capable of being used by any individual manufacturer. The GRIM, however, also requires a number of significant inputs to be operational. These inputs include forecasts of expected prices and industry shipments, as well as information about firm-level production costs. The Department desires to address the derivation of these important inputs as soon as possible, and the workshop will be the initial opportunity for individuals to provide comments to the Department on this topic. The Department hopes to obtain guidance from individuals attending this workshop, on methods for estimating the impacts of standards on appliance prices, shipments and manufacturer costs.

While there will be some presentations, the workshop is being designed to maximize open discussions. The Manufacturer Impact Analysis Workshop will be professionally facilitated. It is expected that one outcome of this workshop will be the formation of a working group that would meet subsequent to the workshop to help the Department further develop its workplan.

Below is the preliminary agenda for the public workshop:

Preliminary Agenda, Manufacturer Impact Analyses Workshop, March 11 and 12, 1997, Room 1E-245, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C.

**Purpose:** To describe and obtain comments on the draft workplan for future manufacturer impact analysis. To describe and obtain comments on existing and proposed analytical tools.

**Expected Outcomes:** Formation of a working group(s) consisting of representatives of different industries and other interested parties. Guidance for further development of the workplan, including advice on the desirability of making changes to existing models or developing new tools.

*Day 1—March 11**Methodology Overview and Description of Analytical Tools*

9:00 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Opening Remarks, Overview, Agenda Review

9:15 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

Description of the Review Process  
—Major objectives of the process rule regarding the analysis of manufacturer impacts  
—Process description  
—Schedule

9:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

Analytical Framework  
—Measures of impact  
—Firms considered  
—Balance of qualitative and quantitative assessments

9:45 a.m.—10:30 a.m.

Description of New Approach  
—Overview  
—Relationship to other standards analyses  
—Phase 1, Industry Profile  
—Phase 2, Industry Cash Flow  
—Phase 3, Sub-Group Analysis

10:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.—12:00 noon

Description of the GRIM Model  
—Role and applicability of the GRIM Model  
—Financial principles  
—Input requirements  
—Output results  
—Open discussion, suggested modification, e.g. inclusion of return on investment

12:00 noon—1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m.—2:00 p.m.

Preparing the Industry Profiles  
—Industry characterization  
—Industry data book

2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Issues in Shipments Forecasts—*Panel and Open Discussion*  
—Role of forecasting models in the manufacturer impact analyses  
—General description of models, including

- Input requirements
- Outputs
- Key assumptions
- Uncertainty analysis
- Track record
- Operating characteristics

—New spread sheet approach  
—Advantages and disadvantages of alternate approaches to forecasting shipments for GRIM

3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Optional hands-on computer training on the models

*Day 2—March 12**Methodology Implementation*

9:00 a.m.—9:15 a.m.

Opening Remarks, Agenda Review

—Objectives

9:15 a.m.—9:45 a.m.

Review of Day One Outcomes

—Key issues

—DOE perspective

—Stakeholder comments

9:45 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Break

10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Estimating Manufacturing Costs for Input to GRIM—*Panel and Open Discussion*

—Relationship to engineering analysis

—Uncertainty in key variables

—Variability between firms

—Data collection methods e.g.

ASHRAE methodology

—Costs not considered in GRIM

11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Lunch

12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

Estimating Prices for Input to GRIM—*Panel and Open Discussion*

—Relationship to life-cycle cost analysis

—Economic concepts

—DOT methodology

—Alternative forecasts

—Scenario/ uncertainty analysis

—Open discussion

1:30 p.m.—2:30 p.m.

Estimating Shipments for Input to GRIM—*Panel and Open Discussion*

—Relationship to national benefits forecasts

—Appropriateness of existing forecasting models

—Simplified spreadsheet model

—Alternative forecasts

—Scenario/uncertainty analysis

—Open discussion

2:30 p.m.—2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.—4:15 p.m.

Non-Model Impact Evaluation—*Panel and Open Discussion*

—Competitive impacts

—Manufacturing capacity, lost investment

—Employment impacts

—Information gathering and assessment methodology

—Cumulative impacts

4:15 p.m.—4:45 p.m.

Other Issues/Alternative Methods/  
Stakeholder Comments

4:45 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Discussion of Future Steps

—Working group(s) composition, role and meetings

5:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 18, 1997.

Christine A. Ervin,

*Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

[FR Doc. 97-4427 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]

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**10 CFR Part 835**

[Docket Number EH-RM-96-835]

**Occupational Radiation Protection****AGENCY:** Office of Environment, Safety and Health, DOE.**ACTION:** Proposed Rule; Extension of Public Comment Period.**SUMMARY:** The Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice of proposed rulemaking on December 23, 1996, (61 FR 67600) concerning amending its primary standards for occupational radiation protection. That notice provided the public with the opportunity to provide written comments on this issue with a written comment period to end on February 21, 1997. Today's notice extends this written comment period to March 31, 1997.**DATES:** Written comments and data must be received by the Department on or before March 31, 1997.**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and data (5 copies and, if possible, a computer disk) should be addressed to Dr. Joel Rabovsky, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, EH-52, EH-RM-96-835, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Telephone: 202 586-3012.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Joel Rabovsky, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, EH-52, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585. Telephone: 301 903-2135.

For information concerning the submission of comments, contact Ms. Andi Kasarsky on (202) 586-3012.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 18, 1997.

Peter N. Brush,

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health.*

[FR Doc. 97-4426 Filed 2-21-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

**FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION****12 CFR Part 650**

RIN 3052-AB72

**Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation; Receivers and Conservators****AGENCY:** Farm Credit Administration.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.**SUMMARY:** The Farm Credit Administration (FCA), by the FCA