

that have tribal implications or preempt tribal laws. Rural Development has determined that the rule does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribe(s) or on either the relationship or the distribution of powers and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes. Thus, this rule is not subject to the requirements of Executive Order 13175. If a tribe determines that this rule has implications of which Rural Development is not aware and would like to engage with Rural Development on this rule, please contact Rural Development's Native American Coordinator at AIAN@wdc.usda.gov.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the information collection activities associated with this rule are covered under the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program, OMB Number: 0570-0017.

This rule contains no new reporting or recordkeeping requirements that would require approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

E-Government Act Compliance

Rural Development is committed to complying with the E-Government Act, to promote the use of the Internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and other purposes.

I. Background

The Agency reviewed 7 CFR 4279.2 which is composed of two paragraphs, the first of which is pertinent. Section 4279.2(a) discusses the definitions, which has thirty seven terms use in the Guaranteed Loanmaking. The definitions and abbreviations contained in § 4279.2 also apply to the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Servicing regulations and, unless otherwise noted, the Biorefinery Assistance Loan Program and the Rural Energy for America Program. Currently, the Agency regulations do not define "interest", "default interest", "penalty interest" or "late charges". However, it is the Agency's policy not to pay out additional cost for default interest, penalty interest and late charges calculated and submitted on a final report of loss claim under the Loan Note Guarantee. However, the lender's Promissory Note may contain provisions for default, penalty interest, or late charges with prior Agency approval. These charges must be customary and reasonable. Accordingly, the Agency is

making the proposed changes in this rule.

II. Discussion of Change

The Agency is revising § 4279.2(a), to address the situation discussed in the "Background" section. Specifically, the Agency is adding a paragraph in § 4287.2(a), after the term "Holder" and before the term Interim Financing, which will define "Interest." The change being made by this rule is to clarify that "interest" does not include default or penalty interest, or late fees. The lender may charge the borrower these fees with prior Agency approval.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 4279

Business and industry, Loan programs, Rural development assistance.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, chapter XLII, title 7, of the Code of Federal Regulations is proposed to be amended as follows:

CHAPTER XLII—RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE AND RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 4279—GUARANTEED LOANMAKING

1. The authority citation for part 4279 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 301; 7 U.S.C. 1932(a); and 7 U.S.C. 1989.

Subpart A—General

2. Paragraph (a) of § 4279.2 is amended by adding a new definition of *Interest*, to read as follows:

§ 4279.2 Definitions and abbreviations.

* * * * *

Interest. A fee paid by a borrower to the lender as a form of compensation for the use of money. When money is borrowed, interest is paid as a fee over a certain period of time (typically months or years) to the lender as a percentage of the principal amount owed. "Interest" does not include default or penalty interest or late fees or charges. The lender may charge these fees and interest with prior Agency approval, but they are not covered by the Loan Note Guarantee.

* * * * *

Dated: February 2, 2012.

Dallas Tonsager,

Under Secretary, Rural Development.

[FR Doc. 2012-3242 Filed 2-10-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket No. EERE-2011-BT-STD-0043]

RIN 1904-AC51

Energy Conservation Standards for Wine Chillers and Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products: Public Meeting and Availability of the Framework Document

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and availability of the framework document.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is considering establishing energy conservation standards for residential wine chillers and other residential refrigeration products. DOE will hold an informal public meeting to discuss and receive comments on its planned analytical approach and issues that it will address in this proceeding. DOE welcomes written comments and relevant data from the public on any subject within the scope of this notice. To inform stakeholders and facilitate this process, DOE has prepared a framework document that details the analytical approach and identifies several issues on which DOE is particularly interested in receiving comments. The framework document is available at http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/refrigerators_freezers.html.

DATES: DOE will hold a public meeting on February 22, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Washington, DC. Additionally, DOE plans to conduct the public meeting via webinar. To participate via webinar, participants must notify DOE no later than Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Registration information, participant instructions, and information about the capabilities available to webinar participants will be published on the following Web site <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/270198257>. Participants are responsible for ensuring that their systems are compatible with the webinar software. Any person requesting to speak at the public meeting should submit such request along with a signed original and an electronic copy of the statements to be given at the public meeting before 4 p.m., Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Written comments are welcome, especially following the public meeting, and should be submitted by March 14, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 8E-089, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. To attend, please notify Ms. Brenda Edwards at (202) 586-2945. Please note that foreign nationals visiting DOE Headquarters are subject to advance security screening procedures, requiring a 30-day advance notice. Any foreign national wishing to participate in the public meeting should advise DOE as soon as possible by contacting Ms. Brenda Edwards at (202) 586-2945 to initiate the necessary procedures.

Any comments submitted must identify the framework document for Energy Conservation Standards for Wine Chillers and Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products, and provide docket number EERE-2011-BT-STD-0043 and/or Regulation Identifier Number (RIN) 1904-AC51. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov> Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- *Email:* WineChillers-2011-STD-0043@ee.doe.gov. Include the docket number and/or RIN in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Ms. Brenda Edwards, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Program, Mailstop EE-2J, Framework Document for Wine Chillers and Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products, EERE-2011-BT-STD-0043 and/or RIN 1904-AC51, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Phone: (202) 586-2945. Please submit one signed original paper copy.

- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* Ms. Brenda Edwards, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Program, 950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20024. Phone: (202) 586-2945. Please submit one signed original paper copy. No telefacsimiles (faxes) will be accepted.

Docket: The docket is available for review at www.regulations.gov, including **Federal Register** notices, the framework document, comments, and other supporting documents and materials. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. However, not all documents in the index may be publicly available, such as information that is exempt from public disclosure.

A link to the docket Web page can be found at www.regulations.gov. The www.regulations.gov Web page contains a link to the docket for this notice, along with simple instructions on how to

access all documents, including public comments, in the docket.

For further information on how to submit a comment or review other public comments and the docket, please contact Ms. Brenda Edwards at (202) 586-2945 or by email: Brenda.Edwards@ee.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucas Adin, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Phone: (202) 287-1317. Email: Lucas.Adin@ee.doe.gov or Michael Kido, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Phone: (202) 586-9507. Email: Michael.Kido@hq.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III, Part B¹ of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (EPCA or the Act), Public Law 94-163 (42 U.S.C. 291-6309, as codified), established an energy conservation program for major household appliances, which includes residential refrigeration products. This program authorizes DOE to establish technologically feasible, economically justified energy efficiency regulations for certain consumer products that would be likely to result in substantial national energy savings, and for which both natural market forces and voluntary labeling programs have been and/or are expected to be ineffective in promoting energy efficiency. (42 U.S.C. 6295(l)(1))

The National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 (NAECA), Public Law 100-12, amended EPCA and established energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers (residential refrigeration products), as well as requirements for determining whether these standards should be amended. (42 U.S.C. 6295(b)) On November 17, 1989, DOE published a final rule in the **Federal Register** updating the energy conservation standards. The new standards became effective on January 1, 1993. 54 FR 47916. Subsequently, DOE determined that new standards for some of the product classes were based on incomplete data and incorrect analysis. As a result, DOE published a correction that amended the new standards for the following three product classes: (1) Refrigerators and refrigerator-freezers with manual defrost, (2) refrigerator-

freezers with automatic defrost with a bottom-mounted freezer but without through-the-door (TTD) ice service, and (3) chest freezers and all other freezers. 55 FR 42845. DOE updated the performance standards once again for residential refrigeration products by publishing a final rule in the **Federal Register** on April 28, 1997. 62 FR 23102. The new standards became effective on July 1, 2001. By completing a second standards rulemaking, DOE had fulfilled its legislative requirement to conduct two cycles of standards rulemakings.

After the completion of these two rulemaking cycles, stakeholders submitted a petition in 2004 requesting that DOE conduct another rulemaking to amend the standards for residential refrigerator-freezers. In April 2005, DOE granted the petition and conducted a limited set of analyses to assess the potential energy savings and potential economic benefit of new standards. DOE issued a report in October 2005 detailing the analyses, which examined the technological and economic feasibility of new standards set at ENERGY STAR levels effective in 2005 for the two most popular product classes of refrigerators: top-mount refrigerator-freezers without TTD features and side-mount refrigerator-freezers with TTD features.² DOE confined its updated analysis to these two classes because they accounted for a majority of current product shipments. Depending on assumptions regarding the impact that standards would have on market efficiency, DOE estimated that amended standards at the 2005 ENERGY STAR levels would yield savings between 2.4 to 3.4 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu), with an associated economic impact to the Nation ranging from a burden or cost of \$1.2 billion to a benefit or savings of \$3.3 billion.

In October 2005, DOE published draft data sheets containing the projected energy savings potential for refrigerator-freezers as part of its fiscal year 2006 schedule-setting process. The data sheets were based on the October 2005 draft technical report analyzing potential new amended energy conservation standards for residential refrigerator-freezers described above. The analysis was not extended to all refrigerator, refrigerator-freezer, and freezer product classes because of the large proportion of the market represented by the two product classes analyzed in detail (i.e. refrigerator-

¹ For editorial reasons, upon codification in the U.S. Code, Part B was redesignated Part A.

² U.S. Department of Energy, "Analysis of Amended Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Refrigerator-Freezers", October 2005, http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/pdfs/refrigerator_report_1.pdf.

freezer—automatic defrost with top-mounted freezer without through-the-door ice service (product class 3) and refrigerator-freezer—automatic defrost with side-mounted freezer with through-the-door ice service (product class 7)) and because DOE expected that results for these product classes would be representative for all of the product classes. DOE had this expectation because these two product classes represent a large majority of refrigerator-freezers, which in turn represent the majority of energy use of refrigeration products. (See pages 5–9 and 2–1 of the 2005 report). The technical report and the associated data sheets helped direct the priorities for DOE's rulemaking activities. As a result, other products were given a higher priority, and limited rulemaking work on refrigerators and freezers was carried out in the following years prior to the enactment of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Public Law 110–140 (Dec. 19, 2007) (EISA).

EISA required DOE to publish a final rule to determine whether to amend the standards in effect for residential refrigeration products manufactured starting in 2014. Consistent with this requirement, DOE issued a notice of proposed rulemaking on September 27, 2010, 75 FR 59470. Subsequently, on September 15, 2011, DOE issued a final rule that established energy conservation standards for over 40 classes of residential refrigeration products. See 76 FR 57516 and 76 FR 70865 (November 16, 2011) (date correction notice). The standards adopted in that final rule were largely based on a consensus agreement that a coalition of energy efficiency advocates and industry representatives submitted to DOE in July 2010, see DOE Docket No. EERE–2008–BT–STD–0012, Comment 49,³ and provided manufacturers with the requisite three-year lead time contemplated by EPCA. See 42 U.S.C. 6295(m).

In the preamble to the final rule, DOE discussed the issue of wine chiller coverage. See, e.g. 76 FR at 57534. The test procedure final rule and interim final rule distinguished between those products designed to safely store fresh food and those that were not. See 75 FR 78810, 78817 (Dec. 16, 2010). Wine chillers are not treated as refrigerators because they are not designed to be capable of achieving compartment temperatures below the 39 °F limit specified in the definition for “electric

refrigerator.” See 10 CFR 430.2. DOE indicated that it would consider the coverage of wine chillers as part of a separate future rulemaking. Today’s notice begins that process of examining the coverage of those residential refrigeration products, including wine chillers, that are not yet addressed by any Federal energy conservation standards. Under EPCA, refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers are limited to those products that can be operated by alternating current electricity, but excluding (A) any type designed to be used without doors; and (B) any type which does not include a compressor and condenser unit as an integral part of the cabinet assembly. See 42 U.S.C. 6292(a)(1).

The framework document explains the issues, analyses, and process that DOE is considering for the development of energy efficiency standards for wine chillers and miscellaneous refrigeration products. An accompanying public meeting will be held that will focus on the analyses and issues contained in various sections of the framework document. DOE plans to present and solicit discussion regarding these issues. DOE will also make a brief presentation on the process that it plans to follow when evaluating potential standards for these products.

DOE encourages anyone who wishes to participate in the public meeting to obtain and review the framework document and to be prepared to discuss its contents. A copy of the draft framework document is available at http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/refrigerators_freezers.html.

However, public meeting participants need not limit their comments to the topics identified in the framework document. DOE is also interested in receiving views on other relevant issues that participants believe would affect energy conservation standards for these products. DOE invites all interested parties, whether or not they participate in the public meeting, to submit in writing by March 14, 2012, comments and information on matters addressed in the framework document and on other matters relevant to consideration of standards for wine chillers and miscellaneous refrigeration products.

DOE will conduct the public meeting in an informal, facilitated, conference style. There shall be no discussion of proprietary information, costs or prices, market shares, or other commercial matters regulated by U.S. antitrust laws. A court reporter will record the minutes of the meeting, after which a transcript will be available for purchase from the court reporter and placed on the DOE

Web site at www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/refrigerators_freezers.htm.

After the public meeting and the close of the comment period for the framework document, DOE will begin collecting data, conducting the analyses as discussed at the public meeting, and reviewing public comments.

Anyone who wishes to participate in the public meeting, receive meeting materials, or be added to the DOE mailing list to receive future notices and information about wine chillers and miscellaneous refrigeration products should contact Ms. Brenda Edwards at (202) 586–2945.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2012.

Kathleen B. Hogan,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

[FR Doc. 2012–3261 Filed 2–10–12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450–01–P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

20 CFR Part 404

[Docket No. SSA–2010–0078]

RIN 0960–AH28

Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Visual Disorders

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: We propose to revise and reorganize the criteria in the Listing of Impairments (listings) that we use to evaluate cases involving visual disorders in adults and children under titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act (Act). The proposed revisions reflect our program experience and address adjudicator questions we have received since we last revised these criteria in 2006. These proposed revisions reflect guidance we have issued in response to adjudicator questions and will ensure more timely adjudication of claims in which we evaluate visual impairments that involve a loss of visual acuity or loss of visual fields.

DATES: To ensure that your comments are considered, we must receive them by no later than April 13, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of three methods—Internet, fax, or mail. Do not submit the same comments multiple times or by more than one method. Regardless of which method you choose, please state that your comments refer to Docket No. SSA–2010–0078 so that we may

³ Note: In the regulations.gov Web site, this is listed as comment 52, although it was originally comment 49, and its header identifies it as comment 49.