DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
10 CFR Part 430
RIN 1904–AC76
Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Test Procedures for Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers, and Freezers
ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On July 10, 2013, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) for test procedures for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers in the Federal Register. This document announces an extension of the public comment period for submitting comments on two specific issues on which DOE had sought comment. The comment period on all other issues in the NOPR remains unchanged.

DATES: DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this rulemaking published July 10, 2013 (78 FR 41610) received no later than September 23, 2013, except on the items specified in this notice, for which DOE will accept comments, data, and information until no later than January 31, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Any comments submitted must identify the NOPR for test procedures for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers and provide docket number EERE–2012–BT–TP–0016 and/or Regulation Identification Number (RIN) 1904–AC76, by any of the following methods:

- Email: Res-Refrig-Freezer-2012-BT-TP-0016@ee.doe.gov. Include the docket number EERE–2012–BT–TP–0016 and/or RIN 1904–AC76 in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: Ms. Brenda Edwards, U.S. Department of Energy, Building Technologies Program, Mailstop EE–2J, 1000 L’Enfant Plaza SW., Suite 600, Washington, DC 20585–0121. If possible, please submit all items on a compact disc (CD), in which case it is not necessary to include printed copies. [Please note that comments and CDs sent by mail are often delayed and may be damaged by mail screening processes.]

This Web page contains links to supporting materials and information for this rulemaking on the regulations.gov site. The regulations.gov page contains instructions on how to access all documents in the docket, including public comments.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
On July 10, 2013, DOE published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NOPR) that would amend the test procedures for residential refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers (collectively, residential refrigerators). (78 FR 41610) That notice provided a comment deadline of September 23, 2013. On August 7, 2013 the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) requested that DOE extend this comment period for two very specific issues raised in the July notice. Those issues, which involved DOE’s proposed inclusion of an icemaking test procedure (Issue Item 2) along with the possible inclusion of certain testing requirements for built-in residential refrigerators (Issue Item 15), would, in AHAM’s view, require additional time for manufacturers to fully evaluate. (AHAM Comment Extension Request, No. 24). AHAM requested an extension of the comment period until January 31, 2014. (See 78 FR at 41658 and 78 FR at 41661). AHAM recommended that the comment period on these issues be extended to September 23, 2013. In its request, AHAM stated that this extension was necessary due to the timing of the NOPR, which was published while manufacturers were preparing their annual DOE certification reports. AHAM also noted that manufacturers are in the process of product development and testing in preparation for the amended energy conservation standards, the compliance date of which is September 15, 2014. Because of these issues, AHAM stated that manufacturers would need additional time to perform laboratory testing to evaluate the proposals in the NOPR.

Because DOE is likely to rely to a significant extent on the data and information that manufacturers provide in making any final determinations on these issues, DOE has determined that an extension of the public comment period is appropriate and is hereby extending the comment period on the issues identified by AHAM. DOE will consider any comments on Items 2 and 15 in section E of the July 10, 2013 NOPR that are received by midnight on January 31, 2014, and deems any comments received by that time on these issues to be timely submitted. For all other issues in the NOPR, DOE will consider any comments received by midnight on September 23, 2013, and deems any comments on all other remaining issues that are received by that time to be timely submitted. DOE notes that the granting of this extension will likely lengthen the time necessary for finalization of any...
proposals regarding the items for which the comment extension was granted. Because the other items in the NOPR may affect the manner in which manufacturers perform the test procedures for compliance with the amended energy conservation standards, which DOE understands some manufacturers may begin using well in advance of the September 15, 2014 compliance date, DOE believes it necessary to finalize those proposals as expeditiously as is feasible. Accordingly, DOE may finalize a rule that addresses all issues other than Items 2 and 15 (i.e., the icemaking test procedure and additional testing requirements for built-in refrigerators) prior to the resolution of these two items.

DOE also notes that the extension of the comment period for these two items will not exceed the 270-day comment period limit imposed by EPCA. See 42 U.S.C. 6293(b)(2).

Issued in Washington, DC, on August 23, 2013.

Kathleen B. Hogan,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

22 CFR Part 226

RIN 0412–AA71

Partner Vetting in USAID Assistance

AGENCY: United States Agency for International Development.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) proposes to amend its regulation governing the administration of USAID-funded assistance awards to implement a Partner Vetting System (PVS). The purpose of the Partner Vetting System is to help ensure that USAID funds and other resources do not inadvertently benefit individuals or entities that are terrorists, supporters of terrorists or affiliated with terrorists, while also minimizing the impact on USAID programs and its implementing partners. In order to apply the PVS to USAID assistance, USAID proposes to amend 22 CFR Part 226. The Office of Management and Budget has approved a 30 day comment period. This proposed regulatory revision is a key requirement of the Agency’s plan for the pilot program and any other vetting programs.

DATES: Submit comments on or before September 30, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Because security screening precautions have slowed the delivery and dependability of surface mail to USAID/Washington, USAID recommends sending all comments by electronic mail or by fax to the email address or fax number listed directly below (please note, all comments must be in writing to be reviewed).

Electronic Access and Filing. You may submit written electronic comments by sending electronic mail [email] to:

M.OAA.RuleMaking@usaid.gov

Please submit comments as a Microsoft Word file avoiding the use of any special characters and any form of encryption.

Surface Mail (again, not advisable due to security screening): Michael Gushue, M/OAA/P, USAID/Washington, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20523.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Michael Gushue, Telephone: 202–567–4678, Email: mgushue@usaid.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Executive Summary

The Purpose of Regulatory Action: The purpose of this regulatory action is to amend 22 CFR Part 226, Administration of Assistance Awards to U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations, to add new pre-award and award terms. The new terms will implement procedures for a new Partner Vetting System.

A Summary of the Provisions: There are two provisions included in this amendment to 22 CFR Part 226. The first is an application provision, Partner Vetting Pre-Award Requirements, which delineates the vetting process and the applicant’s responsibilities for submitting information on individuals who will be vetted, prior to award. The second is an award term, Partner Vetting, which sets forth the recipient’s responsibilities for vetting during the award period, and the partner vetting process that takes place after award.

Costs and Benefits: USAID has determined that this Rule is not an “economically significant regulatory action” under Section 3(f)(1) of Executive Order (E.O.) 12866. However, as this rule is a “significant regulatory action” under Section 3(f)(4) of the E.O., USAID submitted it to OMB for review. This regulatory action will help USAID meet its fiduciary responsibilities by helping to ensure that agency funds and other resources do not inadvertently benefit individuals or entities that are terrorists, supporters of terrorists, or affiliated with terrorists. USAID estimates that Partner Vetting will add an additional 15 minutes to each of the 10,120 grant applications. We estimate the annual cost of implementing partner vetting for assistance is $31,676 for applicants, and $391,810 for the annual cost to the government.

B. Background

USAID is implementing a PVS pilot program for USAID assistance and acquisition awards. It is expected that this pilot program, which includes vetting of both acquisition and assistance solicitations and awards, will provide USAID (and the Department of State) with a more comprehensive understanding of ways to mitigate risk in the provision of foreign assistance as well as the feasibility and utility of implementing PVS worldwide. Because the pilot is intended to help further refine and adjust PVS, the need for any future amendments to USAID’s assistance regulation, related to implementation of PVS, likely will not be determined until after the assessment of the PVS pilot program. The intention of the PVS is to help ensure that USAID funds and other resources do not inadvertently benefit individuals or entities that are terrorists, supporters of terrorists or affiliated with terrorists, while also minimizing the impact on USAID programs and its implementing partners. USAID established the PVS as a new system of records pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 on July 17, 2007 (72 FR 39042). On May 6, 2009, USAID set the final effective date for exempting portions of the PVS from provisions of the Privacy Act as August 4, 2009 (74 FR 20871), although the Agency did not implement PVS at that time. USAID initiated rule-making to revise its acquisition regulation, 48 CFR chapter 7, publishing its final rule for making PVS applicable to acquisitions on February 14, 2012 (77 FR 8166) with an effective date of March 15, 2012.

At the time USAID initiated rulemaking for acquisition, USAID determined that its assistance regulations could accommodate pre-award vetting without revisions. Subsequently, however, as USAID refined its intent for PVS and clarified its goals and purpose, the Agency concluded that in order to apply PVS to assistance to the same extent as to acquisition by allowing for post-award vetting, the Agency needed to revise its assistance regulation, 22 CFR part 226. USAID’s previous rule making generated numerous comments.