

**Form A****Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration & Environmental Document Transmittal**

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State Clearinghouse, PO Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 916/445-0613

**Project Title:** 2008 Amendments to Appliance Efficiency Regulations, Part B  
(Docket # 08-AAER-1B) (California Code of Regulations, Title 20,  
Sections 1601-1608)

**Lead Agency:** California Energy Commission, 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California  
95814

**Commission Contact:**

- Peter Strait, CEQA Project Contact,
- California Energy Commission  
Energy Efficiency and Renewables Division,  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-9375  
[pstrait@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:pstrait@energy.state.ca.us)

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Document Type:** Initial Study/Proposed Negative Declaration

**Project Description:** The Energy Commission's mandate is to promote energy efficiency through a variety of means, including efficiency standards for appliances based on the provisions in Public Resources Code Section 25402.

The Commission is proposing changes to the appliance efficiency standards as an action to support its mandate. The proposed amendments considered in the 2008 Appliance Rulemaking include provisions for revised efficiency requirements for metal halide luminaires and residential pool pumps, clarifications to the standardized testing of portable spas, and a voluntary test procedure for battery charger systems to determine their efficiency. Additionally, the proposed amendments will update and revise language in the current regulations so that all language is aligned with recent federal appliance regulations.

The Energy Commission is proposing to adopt appliance efficiency regulations to:

- improve the efficiency of high intensity discharge (HID) metal halide luminaries from the current 88 percent ballast efficiency to either 90 or 92 percent, depending on the lamp wattage;
- require occupant sensors, automatic daylight controls, or the use of specified unconventional wattage lamps if the HID metal halide luminaire uses a ballast with a minimum ballast efficiency of 88 percent;
- clarify that the existing residential pool pump regulations apply to installations of a pool pump motor and pump impeller combination greater than or equal to one horsepower, and add a new requirement that replacement pool pump motors are required to meet the efficiency standards;
- clarify with additional definitions the existing test method for portable electric spas;
- specify a standard voluntary test procedure for battery charger systems; and

- update the sections of the regulations that relate to federally-regulated appliances to be consistent with recent changes to federal law made by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA," Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) requires public agencies to identify and consider the potential environmental effects of their "projects," as that term is defined, and when feasible to mitigate any related adverse environmental consequences. The proposed adoption of regulations is a project under CEQA, as it is a discretionary action which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, the Energy Commission prepared an Initial Study to assess the potential significant effects of the proposed regulations on the environment and determined that there is no substantial evidence that the project may cause a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration has thus been prepared.

**Public Review Period:**

Starting Date: October 25, 2008

Ending Date: November 24, 2008

**Documents:**

All relevant documents are available online at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/2008rulemaking/>

Requests for copies of the Negative Declaration can also be made to the contact person listed above. The custodian of the documents is the California Energy Commission, and the documents are held internally by the Dockets Office under Docket #08-AAER-1B.

**Public Meetings and Adoption:**

An adoption hearing by the full Commission will be held on:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008

10:00 a.m.

Hearing Room A

California Energy Commission

1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

(Wheelchair accessible)

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Peter Strait  
CEQA Project Contact  
California Energy Commission

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Date: