The California Energy Commission

Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

The California Energy Commission develops, implements, and enforces California's *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* and labeling requirements. The Energy Commission developed its first standards for appliances in 1977 that apply to appliances sold or offered for sale in California. These standards include minimum levels of operating efficiency, and other cost-effective measures, to promote the use of energy- and water-efficient appliances

Benefits

In California, appliances use more than half the electricity consumed in buildings. *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* save energy, water and consumers money, and reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by avoiding the generation output from natural-gas fired power plants.

Standards adopted in 2012 for battery chargers are the state's most recent success story: saving enough electricity to power nearly 350,000 households, or a city roughly the size of Bakersfield. Once fully implemented, it is estimated California ratepayers will save approximately $306 million a year.

Standards Development

The Energy Commission adopts *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* for products that require a significant amount of energy on a statewide basis. Proposed standards must be cost-effective, energy-efficient, and technically feasible.

The Energy Commission develops its standards through an open and transparent public process. Input is sought from stakeholders to identify core topics, give technical presentations, and provide comments for various appliances categories. For each appliance category, the Energy Commission develops and publishes draft reports with proposed standards. The staff proposal is explored in depth at public workshops, with stakeholder feedback incorporated into the revised reports and proposed standards. These standards become effective no sooner than one year after the date of adoption by the Energy Commission.

Standards Implementation

After the *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* are adopted, the Energy Commission informs all stakeholders and manufacturers of the final appliance efficiency testing requirements, certification instructions, and procedures to comply with the standards. In addition, the Energy Commission helps manufacturers and retailers comply with the standards.

It is the responsibility of appliance manufacturers selling their products in California to test them at Energy Commission- approved testing laboratories and receive third-party certification. Once certified, manufacturers are required to submit their documentation and data to the Energy Commission to be uploaded into the agency's online Appliance Database. By certifying appliance efficiency data, manufacturers gain access to a leading consumer appliance market and ensure that Californians have energy-efficient appliance options that are affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible.

Standards Enforcement

Compliance with the state's *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* is essential to capture the many benefits of reducing energy consumption. To increase compliance, the Energy Commission begins with outreach and education to manufacturers, retailers, and consumers.

To ensure products sold in California meet the standards, the Energy Commission conducts targeted enforcement testing, whereby appliances are purchased from retailers and tested. In addition, concerns about noncompliant appliances from various sources, including manufacturers and retailers, can be reported.

The Energy Commission also has the authority to assess civil penalties and fines on retailers and manufacturers for violations of California's standards.

The Energy Commission's leadership developing, implementing and enforcing the state's *Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards* for almost four decades has saved consumers billions of dollars in reduced energy costs. New standards will continue to save energy, water and consumers money, and reduce air pollution and GHG emissions by avoiding the generation output from natural-gas fired power plants.