Compliance Advisory
April 8, 2021

APPLIANCE EFFICIENCY REGULATIONS
FOR COMPUTERS AND COMPUTER MONITORS

The California Appliance Efficiency Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 20, sections 1601-1609) contain definitions, test methods, energy efficiency standards, certification requirements, and marking requirements for computers and computer monitors. On December 9, 2020, the California Energy Commission (CEC) adopted amendments to the appliance efficiency regulations to incorporate several new technologies pertaining to computers and computer monitors.

In conformance with the one-year grace period contained in Public Resources Code section 25402(c)(1)(A), compliance with these regulations becomes effective on December 9, 2021. This delay is intended to provide time to adjust manufacturing processes and clear out existing supply. This compliance advisory is published jointly by staff within the CEC’s Efficiency Division and Office of Compliance Assistance and Enforcement (OCAE) to inform companies that they may voluntarily comply early with these regulations effective immediately.

To accommodate voluntary early compliance, CEC staff has modified the Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System (MAEDbS) with new fields for certification of the computers and computer monitors incorporating new technologies addressed in the regulations adopted by the CEC on December 9, 2020. Consistent with this advisory, manufacturers that wish to comply early with these regulations may now voluntarily certify computers and computer monitors incorporating new technologies to the MAEDbS using the new additional fields. Once models are voluntarily certified into the MAEDbS, any computer products that are compliant with the regulations adopted on
December 9, 2020 will not be subject to enforcement action based on the efficiency standards covering these products prior to December 9, 2020.

Consistent with the enforcement discretion granted to the CEC in Public Resources Code section 25402.11 and delegated to the CEC’s executive director by California Code of Regulations, Title 20, sections 1608-1609, companies that have elected to voluntarily comply with the new regulations may do so immediately. Any company that has failed to comply with the new requirements effective December 9, 2021, may be subject to compliance and enforcement actions covering covered products within this category that are sold or offered for sale in California on or after this date.

For more information

To obtain a copy of the regulations or other related compliance assistance documents, visit the Appliance Efficiency Program webpage (Appliance Efficiency Regulations - Title 20). Questions may be addressed by calling the Appliances Title 20 Compliance Assistance Call Center, toll free inside California at (888) 838-1467 or outside California at (916) 651-7100, or by emailing appliances@energy.ca.gov.