

December 2008

Fame and fortune in the appliance standards community is yours if you can come up with a title for this newsletter. Well, maybe only fame. Please submit your entries to mdimascio@standardsasap.org. You will be gratefully acknowledged in future issues and remain on the mailing list in perpetuity.

Topics

- ▶ **Big savings potential for lamp rulemaking**
- ▶ **Take Action**
- ▶ **Department of Energy scheduled to set 25 appliance standards in 3 years**
- ▶ **Cooking Products and commercial clothes washers**
- ▶ **FUN FACT: Are there more TV's or people in the US?**
- ▶ **California breaking new ground**

Recent and Upcoming Events

December 15
California Energy Commission workshop on TV standards

December 17
DOE hearing on room AC and dryer test methods

December or January
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR)* expected for fluorescent tube lamps and incandescent reflector lamps. Hearing in January or February

December or January
Final DOE standard for supermarket refrigeration

December or January
Proposed DOE standards for beverage vending machines

March
Final DOE standards for microwave ovens and commercial clothes washers

For more info, see the ASAP link above or DOE's Standards homepage:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/

*What's a NOPR anyway? Usually, the third step in a four-stage process of DOE rulemaking, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published in the Federal Register and gives anyone interested an opportunity to react to the government's proposed standards. Anyone can submit written comments and/or testify at a DC hearing (usually about 30 days after the NOPR is published). DOE must take all input into consideration in deciding on the content of the final rule, which comes out about 6 months after the NOPR.

FEEDBACK

We would like to hear from you. What would you like to see included in this newsletter? Statistics, links, news stories, federal or state information, other? E-mail mdimascio@standardsasap.org with your ideas or to subscribe/unsubscribe.

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In our tenth year, ASAP has decided to launch a newsletter. With twenty-five federal standards rulemakings underway, an incoming administration which has vowed to "overhaul" the national standards program, a dozen states implementing their own appliance standards and heightened interest in testing, compliance and enforcement, the time seems right. We have two goals for this newsletter. First, we want to keep pro-efficiency organizations and individuals abreast of key appliance standards developments. Second, we hope to inspire actions that will help lead to stronger state and federal standards. Each newsletter will highlight a few key issues and, usually, suggest at least one concrete action item. At least for the next few years, and perhaps the next ten, we hope this newsletter will be an effective tool for advancing energy efficiency standards.

BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR SAVINGS in Upcoming Fluorescent Tube and Incandescent Reflector Lamp Rulemaking:



Expected in December 2008, the proposed lamp standards will cover most four- and eight-foot long fluorescent tubes and incandescent reflector lamps (the cone-shaped light bulbs most typically used in "recessed can" light fixtures). **The new standards for these lamps have the potential to save more energy than any other standard ever set by the DOE.** By DOE estimates, the potential annual savings in the year 2020 would be 58 billion kilowatt hours – an amount equal to the annual consumption of about 5 million typical American households. Using current electricity prices, these savings are worth approximately \$800 million dollars per year. Over thirty years, the standard would cut CO₂ emissions by nearly a **billion** tons, the equivalent of taking 183 million cars off the road for a year!

The potential for this standard is large and the benefits are clear. Supporting strong standards for these products will have a positive, lasting impact on energy usage, energy costs, and climate change. For more details, go to our fact sheet at <http://www.standardsasap.org/index.htm>. To take action, see below.

TAKE ACTION on Lamps:



The Department of Energy has the opportunity to take an historic action by setting strong lamp standards. You can encourage them to do so. Send an organizational or personal letter, and forward this alert to others who might get involved. We have written a sample letter which you can revise to reflect your or your organization's perspective. The 'Take Action' button allows you to send a letter directly to the DOE. Let them know that strong standards for lamps will make a big difference in reducing electricity use, saving consumers money, and in combating global warming. And, with a strong DOE standard, the equivalent emissions of over 183 million vehicles will never see the light of day.

CLICK HERE TO SEND AN ALERT
http://www.standardsasap.org/action_alert/email_alert.php

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY Scheduled To Set 25 Appliance Standards In 3 Years:

It wasn't long ago that we were lamenting the slow progress of federal rulemakings. But then, Congress started paying closer attention and New York and fourteen other states, New York City, National Resources Defense Council, and consumer groups sued DOE over missed deadlines. Since submitting a new schedule to Congress and settling the lawsuits in 2006, DOE has gotten to work. Based on preliminary analysis by ACEEE, strong new standards for the 25 products due over the next three years have the potential, by 2030¹, to:

- Save about 165 billion kilowatt hours electricity annually, reducing consumers' and businesses' annual energy bills by about \$16 billion. (These savings are about equal to the total current annual electricity used by all the households in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois combined);
- Reduce peak electricity demand by about 60,000 megawatts – enough to eliminate the need for 200 power plants at 300 megawatts each;
- Cut annual global warming carbon dioxide emissions by about 150 million metric tons, and;
- Generate discounted net present value savings of more than \$60 billion dollars.

Appliance standards are one of the easiest, cheapest and quickest ways to save energy and reduce costs. President-elect Obama has recognized the key role for efficiency in meeting national energy policy objectives, and, during the campaign, cited standards as a mechanism to help meet his goal of a 15% reduction in projected electricity use by 2020. He specifically called for an "overhaul" of the national standards effort to make up savings lost by years of delay. For more on the potential energy and CO₂ savings for each of the upcoming rulemakings, go to our website:
<http://www.standardsasap.org/federal.htm>

COOKING PRODUCTS and COMMERCIAL CLOTHES WASHERS

The NOPR, published on October 17th includes conventional cooking products, microwave ovens, and commercial clothes washers. DOE proposes to limit the standby power on microwave ovens to a maximum of 1 watt and eliminate standing pilot lights on gas ovens and cooktops. We agree with both of these proposed standards.

DOE recommends separating commercial clothes washers into two classes, top-loading and front-loading, and creating two standards which would potentially allow less efficient top-loaders to maintain or increase market share. The standards DOE proposes are significantly weaker for top loaders than they are for front loaders, yet even the latter standards are already met by 88% of current sales in the U.S. We recommend that DOE maintain one class for commercial clothes washers and adopt a standard comparable to today's front-loaders. We project such a standard would achieve \$1.25 billion more in consumer savings than the standard proposed by DOE.

FUN FACT – Are There More TV's or People in the US?:

"Americans collectively own some 266 million working televisions, a number that's expected to grow by 3.5 percent a year. At that rate, televisions will outnumber humans in the United States by 2010.....Televisions consume about 4% of all residential electricity, most of which is generated by conventional coal-fired power plants spewing global warming pollution into the air." By Noah Horowitz. NRDC: onearth Magazine, September 1, 2007. Full article at <http://www.onearth.org/article/gadgets-go-green>

The number of televisions is on the rise as is their energy use – driven by consumer desire for bigger sets, longer operating hours and the shift to more power-hungry technologies (see Energy Solutions chart to left). Energy Star updated its criteria to cover on-mode operation effective November 1, and already a large number of TVs comply. However, much more improvement is possible. PG&E proposed a two step minimum standard for California earlier this year. The initial step would eliminate today's most inefficient sets while a second tier, effective a couple of years later, would be set at the levels met by today's best units. After an initial workshop in July, a follow on workshop is planned. A final standard should be completed in 2009 – **it would be the first energy saving standard for TVs in the U.S.**

Energy Star and state standards are just part of the answer though. The current DOE test method, which dates from the 1970s, is woefully inadequate – it simply cannot be applied to today's digital sets.

EnergyStar and California have based their efforts on a new, consensus international test method developed by TV manufacturers. But, the federal EnergyGuide labels must be based on DOE test methods, if they exist. These labels provide basic consumer information needed to compare energy use. States may also be prevented from using any test method other than the federal one.

To fix this problem, California petitioned DOE on May 23rd to withdraw the federal test method. Wal-Mart, the Edison Electric Institute, the American Gas Association, the National Association of Rural Electric Coops, Dow Chemical, PG&E, Southern California Edison, NRDC, the Alliance to Save Energy, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, ACEEE and Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships all urged DOE to grant the petition. (<http://www.standardsasap.org/documents/JointLettertoDOEonTVTestMethod7-8-08.pdf>) By immediately withdrawing the defunct DOE test method, DOE will clear the way for state action and for sensible EnergyGuide labels. DOE has yet to respond to the petition.

BREAKING NEW GROUND: California to set new lighting standards

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is expected to give final approval to new standards for portable light fixtures, metal halide light fixtures and general service light bulbs. The CEC also will

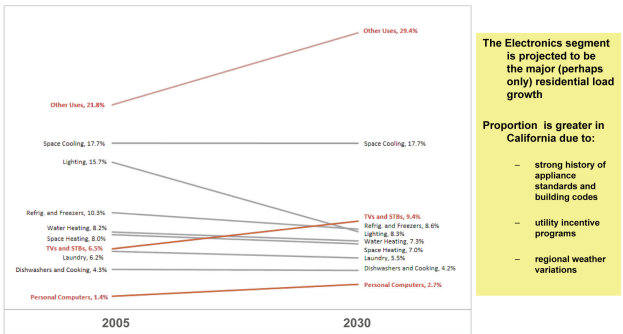
- Issue a test method for battery chargers;
- Clarify the state's pool pump standards and the portable spa test method;
- Expand the pool pump motor standard to cover replacement motors.

The CEC developed the new portable fixture standard, initially proposed by PG&E and ACEEE, over the course of the year with the input of the American Lighting Association. The final version, which all parties active in the proceeding supported, provides multiple compliance paths, but essentially requires CFL-type efficacy in most new portable fixtures, effective January 2010. Other states may consider adopting this standard.

For general service lamps, the CEC will accelerate the federal implementation dates. The federal standards, enacted in 2007, require significant efficiency improvements starting in 2012 and phasing in by 2015 (e.g. the standard 60 W light bulb will be replaced by either CFLs or an improved incandescent bulb using about 40 W). Stronger federal light bulb standards will take effect in 2020, requiring CFL-level efficiency. In California, the initial standards will be effective a year earlier and the second tier standards will take effect in 2018, both special exceptions for California granted in federal law. The new California standard for metal halide fixtures strengthens an initial standard from several years ago. Due to federal preemption, most other states cannot follow the CEC lead on general service lamps or metal halide fixtures. U.S. DOE will initiate a rulemaking in 2009 to strengthen the current federal metal halide fixture standard, with the new CEC standard as a potential model.

For more details on the CEC proceedings, see <http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/2008rulemaking/>

U.S. Residential Electricity Percentage by End-Use, 2005 to 2030



Source: Analysis of "Year-by-Year Reference Case Tables" in EIA 2008. The "Other Uses" category includes home audio equipment, DVD/VCRs, imaging equipment, and other small electric devices. Total delivered electricity is a 64 quad BTU in 2005 and 6.88 quad BTU projected in 2030.