

## MISSED DEADLINES FOR APPLIANCE STANDARDS

*Prepared by Appliance Standards Awareness Project  
January 22, 2018*

### DOE's legal obligation to update appliance standards

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is required by law to review each national appliance standard every six years and publish either a proposed rule to update the standard or a determination that no change is warranted. If DOE publishes a proposed rule, a final rule is due two years later.

### Missed deadlines

As of January 2018, DOE had missed legal deadlines for eight products:<sup>1</sup>

Product	Required rulemaking step	Legal deadline
Small electric motors	Proposed rule	March 2016
Pool heaters	Proposed rule	April 2016
Water heaters	Proposed rule	April 2016
Clothes dryers	Proposed rule	April 2017
Room air conditioners	Proposed rule	April 2017
Cooking products	Final rule	June 2017
Refrigerators and freezers	Proposed rule	September 2017
Fluorescent lamp ballasts	Proposed rule	November 2017

Another four proposed or final rules for standards are due before the end of 2018, covering clothes washers, commercial boilers, commercial water heaters and several types of commercial air conditioning products. DOE has also missed six legal deadlines for updating test procedures. The Trump administration's fall 2017 Regulatory Plan moved most of the already overdue standards and those with deadlines coming up in 2018 to "[long-term action](#)" status, indicating that they do not plan to work on them this year.

### Savings at stake

Missed deadlines for updating appliance standards result in lost savings for consumers and businesses. A 2016 ASAP/ACEEE report, [Next Generation Standards](#), found that updates to existing appliance standards could save consumers and businesses about \$43 billion each year on their utility bills by 2035.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition, a court settlement required DOE's "best efforts" to complete a final standard for furnaces by April 2016.