

Efficiency Standards for Walk-In Coolers Will Lower Business Costs, Cut Climate Pollution

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Updated standards recently finalized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will ensure that new walk-in coolers and freezers use proven energy-saving technologies, reducing businesses' electricity bills while cutting planet-warming emissions.

Keeping food and other perishable items cold in walk-in refrigerators and freezers is a big electricity expense for businesses like restaurants, convenience stores, and grocery stores. DOE recently finalized efficiency standards ensuring that new units will soon use up-to-date energy-saving improvements, making them less costly to run.



The new standards—which will take effect in late 2027 for non-display doors and late 2028 for refrigeration systems—will save businesses up to \$6.5 billion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 29 million metric tons over 30 years of product sales, DOE estimates. By using energy more efficiently, equipment meeting the new standards will help reduce growing strain on the electric grid.

Walk-in refrigeration systems can be improved to meet the amended standards by using technologies including more efficient compressors, variable-speed fan motors, improved heat exchangers, and crankcase heater controls. Manufacturers of non-display doors can meet the new standards by adding anti-sweat heater controls. These improvements can deliver significant cost savings.

DOE was required by law to update the standards for these products (if cost-effective) by 2022.

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