

MISSED DEADLINES FOR APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Prepared by the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (updated January 2020)

By law, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) must 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 (i.e., a “negative determination”). If DOE publishes a proposed update, a final rule is due two years later. In addition, Congress set unique review schedules for a few products.

As of January 2020, DOE has missed legal deadlines for twenty-one product standards.¹ Based on the current rate of progress, DOE likely will miss several more appliance standards deadlines by January 2021.

Product	Required rulemaking step	Legal deadline
Small electric motors	Proposed rule or neg. determination	March 2016
Pool heaters	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2016
Water heaters	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2016
Clothes dryers	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2017
Room air conditioners	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2017
Cooking products	Final rule	June 2017
Refrigerators and freezers	Proposed rule or neg. determination	Sept. 2017
Fluorescent lamp ballasts	Proposed rule or neg. determination	Nov. 2017
Dedicated outdoor air systems	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2018
Computer room A/Cs	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2018
VRF A/Cs and heat pumps	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2018
Commercial water heaters	Final rule	May 2018
Residential clothes washers	Proposed rule or neg. determination	May 2018
Evaporatively-cooled com. ACs	Proposed rule or neg. determination	May 2018
Water-cooled com. ACs	Proposed rule or neg. determination	May 2018
Metal halide lamp fixtures	Final rule	Jan 2019
Distribution transformers	Proposed rule or neg. determination	April 2019
Microwave ovens	Proposed rule or neg. determination	June 2019
Direct heating equipment	Proposed rule or neg. determination	Oct. 2019
Dishwashers	Proposed rule or neg. determination	Dec. 2019
Walk-in coolers	Final rule	Jan. 2020

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.

Test procedures also overdue – DOE has also missed legal deadlines for updating 19 test procedures. Updated test procedures provide essential underpinnings for improved standards.

Sources: DOE [Report to Congress](#), Dec. 2018; DOE’s [Draft 5-year schedule](#); national appliance standards [laws](#). For more information contact: Andrew deLaski, adelaski@standardsASAP.org, 617-390-5334.

¹ In addition, a court settlement required DOE’s “best efforts” to complete a final standard for furnaces by April 2016.