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Q & A APPLIANCE STANDARDS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Benefits of National Appliance Standards

2011



National standards are already saving the typical household at least \$500 per year.



What are appliance standards?

National appliance and equipment efficiency standards assure a minimum level of energy efficiency performance for most major household and many business products manufactured for sale in the U.S.



What benefits do they provide?

Standards provide many benefits for consumers, the national economy, manufacturers and the environment. They:

- Save money for consumers and businesses;
- Create jobs when those bill savings are spent on other goods and services;
- Boost energy security by cutting the need for energy production and imports;
- Cut power plant emissions, improving public health and the environment;
- Save water, and;
- Reduce the need to site and build new power plants.

Based on analyses by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and ASAP, already existing standards saved 3.6 quads of energy in 2010 (i.e., more than enough to meet the energy needs of all the households in the two largest states – TX and CA) reducing consumer and business utility bills by at least \$34 billion in 2010. Savings grow over time as new sales are affected and pending standards take effect. In 2020, annual savings from standards that have already been set will reach 5.8 quads (i.e., enough to meet the needs of all the households in the four largest states – TX, CA, FL and NY), reducing consumer and business

utility bills by \$64 billion in 2020. Peak electricity savings will grow to 153,000 megawatts in 2020, avoiding the need for 510 plants at 300 MW each.

How much do consumers save?

Impacts for individual consumers are equally impressive. For example, a consumer's energy bill to operate most major home appliances, including heating and cooling equipment, plus lighting based on typical efficiency prior to enactment of national standards would be about \$1,700 per year. But, due to standards, energy use for this set of products will be reduced to less than \$1,200 by 2020. In other words, national standards are already saving the typical household at least \$500 per year.

Who supports standards?

National standards enjoy broad support including bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives and support from the President, the Energy Secretary, state governments, utilities, the business community, consumer groups, and efficiency and environmental groups. Even the makers of the affected products are generally supporters, in part due to the regulatory certainty provided by national standards in comparison to state-by-state standards. The Consumer Energy Alliance, a broad coalition of industry, business groups and companies, supports, "increase(d) commercial and residential efficiency standards" The U.S. Chamber of Commerce recommended in spring 2010 that, "DOE should make accelerating its pace on finalizing these efficiency rules a higher priority."