

# Efficiency Standards for Walk-In Coolers Will Lower Business Costs

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*Updated standards finalized by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in December 2024 will ensure that new walk-in coolers and freezers use proven energy-saving technologies, reducing electricity bills for businesses like restaurants, convenience stores, and grocery stores. A congressional resolution to cancel these standards, if adopted, would cost businesses and increase strain on the electric grid.*

Keeping food and other perishable items can be a big expense: Almost half of food stores' electricity use is for refrigeration.

Fortunately, last year DOE finalized efficiency standards ensuring that new walk-in refrigerators and freezers will soon use up-to-date energy-saving improvements, making them less costly to run.

The new standards will save businesses up to \$6.5 billion on utility bills (from products sold over 30 years), DOE estimates. Canceling the standards would raise costs for these businesses, costs that could be passed on to grocery shoppers and other customers.

The standards will take effect in late 2027 for non-display doors and late 2028 for refrigeration systems. 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.

**Repealing the standards would raise costs for businesses and constrain future electric grid capacity needed to power local manufacturing, AI data centers, and new residential or commercial developments.**



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