

ISSUE BRIEF | Final Rule: DOE issues new energy consumption standards for automatic commercial ice makers

March 26, 2015

What change(s) were approved in the final rule?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has issued a final rule on new energy consumption standards for certain automatic commercial ice makers. The new rule goes into effect in 2018 and updates the current energy consumption standards in effect since 2010. The rule applies to automatic commercial icemakers used to make and harvest ice and found in restaurants, hotels, hospitals, schools, office buildings, supermarkets and other facilities.

What organization is implementing the change(s)?

The U.S. Department of Energy (www.energy.gov), under the authority of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, implemented this change as part of its mission to “ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.” DOE expects the new ice maker standards to save approximately 11 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equal to the electricity used by 1.5 million households.

How will changes required in the final rule impact my business?

By January 2018, NAFEM members who manufacture automatic commercial ice-making equipment covered under the new rule will need to meet the new energy consumption standards. Complete details on the proposed rule are available at http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/product.aspx/productid/21.

What should my company do to address the changes required in the final rule?

NAFEM members who manufacture automatic commercial ice-making equipment should carefully review the new rule to understand how it impacts their businesses and begin developing and implementing plans to ensure they are in compliance by January 2018.

What did NAFEM do to help address the industry’s needs in the final rule?

Throughout the public comment and review process, NAFEM regularly conveyed the industry’s concerns about the proposed changes in partnership with allied industry organizations, including the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), the National Restaurant Association (NRA) and others.

NAFEM actively and aggressively represented its members’ interests in the policy area with DOE by providing public comments, submitting formal written requests to elected and appointed officials, forming coalitions with stakeholders and operators from a variety of industries, and helping member companies get involved as well.

Who should I contact with questions?

For questions on this topic, please contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, director of member services at NAFEM headquarters: csouhrada@nafem.org or 312.821.0201.