

ISSUE BRIEF | Natural Resources Canada proposes alignment of 17 product categories to new U.S. energy efficiency standards

February 27, 2017

What changes are being proposed?

Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Office of Energy Efficiency has issued a proposal to align Canada's Energy Efficiency Regulations for 17 product categories – including Commercial Refrigeration and Walk-In Coolers/Freezers – with new United States energy efficiency standards that go into effect in March and June 2017.

Should the proposal be implemented as planned, NRCan would align its regulations and compliance dates with the U.S. as follows:

- Commercial Refrigeration (self-contained) – March 2017;
- Commercial Refrigeration (remote) – March 2017; and
- Walk-In Coolers/Freezers – June 2017

NRCan intends to pre-publish its proposal in Spring 2017, which is the next step toward the proposal's final approval. The proposal aligns with new U.S. energy efficiency standards that were issued in August 2016, which NAFEM explained in [this issue brief from October 2016](#). The U.S. standards require manufacturers of 49 classes of commercial refrigeration to comply with new energy efficiency standards by March 27, 2017.

Additionally, NAFEM has urged NRCan to discontinue the practice of requiring a separate, third-party product verification program. NAFEM has shared that this process places an unnecessary testing burden on the industry and may limit members' abilities to maintain robust product availability in Canada.

What organization is considering implementing the change?

NRCan works to ensure the responsible development of Canada's natural resources, including energy, forests, minerals and metals. It is a sister organization to Environment Canada that is responsible for protecting the country's environment. For more information on NRCan, visit <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/home>.

How will this proposed change impact my business?

The proposed harmonization of Canada and U.S. energy efficiency standards will benefit NAFEM members by not forcing them to have two separate standards for the U.S. and Canada.

What is NAFEM doing to address this issue?

NAFEM provided NRCan with written comments supportive of its efforts to better align Canadian energy efficiency standards with the U.S. and to support the proposed compliance dates. Additionally, NAFEM urged NRCan to discontinue the practice of requiring a separate, third-party product verification program. We will continue to be actively involved with this issue. NAFEM's comments are available on the Advocacy section of www.NAFEM.org.

What should my company be doing to address this issue?

You should continue to monitor the situation through the Advocacy section of www.NAFEM.org for updates and to learn more. We may ask member companies to join NAFEM in opposing the third-party verification program; being ready to share details about the impact on your company will be important.

Who should I contact with questions?

NAFEM will keep members apprised of this issue through the advocacy section of www.NAFEM.org and NAFEM Online. For questions on this topic, contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, vice president, regulatory & technical Affairs: csouhrada@nafem.org or 312.821.0201.