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June 21, 2022

Submitted to Federal eRulemaking Portal – www.regulations.gov
DOCKET: EERE-2017-BT-TP-0010

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Re: NAFEM Comments on – Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers; Docket No. EERE-2017-BT-TP-0010; 87 Fed. Reg. 23,920 (April 21, 2022)

Dear Dr. Johnson and Mr. Kido:

The North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) submits the following comments on the Department of Energy's (DOE's) Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers; Docket No. EERE-2017-BT-TP-0010; 87 Fed. Reg. 23,920 (April 21, 2022)(WICF Proposed Test Procedures or proposed rule).

NAFEM is a trade association of more than 500 commercial foodservice equipment and supplies manufacturers – a \$14.9 billion industry. These businesses, their employees, and the products they manufacture, support the food away from home market – which includes more than one million locations in the U.S. and countless more around the world. NAFEM supports, and its members actively seek, opportunities to engage with DOE in the regulatory process to assure certainty and clarity to its regulated members that manufacture equipment relied upon by our society to safely provide food away from home.

NAFEM regularly participates with DOE in energy conservation standards rulemakings. NAFEM members include manufacturers of WICF that are the subject of this proposed rule, and NAFEM has a direct interest in this matter.

NAFEM and the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) have many overlapping members, and NAFEM members have assisted AHRI in developing those comments. Further, AHRI has

extensive technical research capabilities that help to enhance their comments on the WICF Proposed Test Procedures. Therefore, NAFEM also supports AHRI's comments submitted to this docket.

There are several important repeating issues that arise in many of DOE's recent proposed rules and that NAFEM strongly urges DOE to keep in mind as it proceeds with this and similar rulemakings. In no particular order, these issues include:

- DOE must recognize that laboratory capacity and capabilities are limited and testing costs usually significantly exceed DOE's estimates. DOE must accurately assess and consider the limitations of laboratory capacity and the financial impacts on small businesses in particular in securing necessary lab assistance in ensuring companies can meet appropriate test procedures.
- While this proposed rule is not inconsistent with DOE's process rule, NAFEM continues to support the Small Business Office of Advocacy request that DOE reopen public comment on the 2021 Process Rule and concurrent proposed rulemaking in light of the National Academies of Science report that is critical to aspects of DOE's 2021 Process Rule (see Advocacy letter dated May 13, 2022).
- DOE must also consider how various EPA rulemakings – in particular its phase out of HFCs and other SNAP regulations regarding allowable refrigerants – may impact energy efficiency improvements in the WICF manufacturing process and available products.

NAFEM appreciates its relationship with DOE and engagement in DOE's energy efficiency standards rulemakings. We look forward to continuing this work and encourage you to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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