

DOCKETED

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| Docket Number: | 23-AAER-01 |
| Project Title: | Commercial Food Service Equipment (i.e. Commercial Steam Cookers, Commercial Convection Ovens, Commercial Dishwashers, and Commercial Fryer) |
| TN #: | 258972 |
| Document Title: | Request for Information for Commercial Ovens |
| Description: | The California Energy Commission (CEC) seeks information from stakeholders and members of the public as it considers establishing efficiency standards, test procedures, marking requirements, and other efficiency measures for commercial ovens. |
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| Submitter Role: | Commission Staff |
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CEC-057 (Revised 1/21)



Request for Information (RFI) and Invitation to Submit Proposals (ITSP) Appliance Efficiency Regulations for Commercial Ovens

Docket 23-AAER-01

Written Comments Due: October 25, 2024

The California Energy Commission (CEC) seeks information from stakeholders and members of the public as it considers establishing efficiency standards, test procedures, marking requirements, and other efficiency measures for commercial ovens. This request for information (RFI) builds upon and proposes to expand the scope of the RFI issued on November 14, 2023, *Request for Information (RFI) and Invitation to Submit Proposals (ITSP), Appliance Efficiency Regulations for Commercial Food Service Equipment* (hereafter referred to as RFI-2023-11-14).¹ When responding to this RFI, please consider both this RFI and RFI-2023-11-14.

Background

The CEC continues to work towards a clean and equitable energy future for California through implementation of innovative energy policies, including establishing electricity, natural gas, and water efficiency standards for indoor and outdoor appliances.

On August 10, 2023, the CEC issued an order instituting rulemaking (OIR) to consider efficiency standards, test procedures, marking requirements, and other efficiency measures for commercial food service equipment, including commercial steam cookers, commercial dishwashers, commercial convection ovens, and commercial fryers. Any measures resulting from the OIR will be incorporated into the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 20, Sections 1601-1609, the Appliance Efficiency Regulations.

¹ The CEC Docket 23-AAER-01, 2023. *Request for information (RFI) and Invitation to Submit Proposals (ITSP), Appliance Efficiency Regulations for Commercial Food Service Equipment*. <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=253089&DocumentContentId=88297>.

On November 14, 2023, the CEC issued an RFI for commercial food service equipment to seek information from the public and invite interested members of the public to submit proposals. RFI-2023-11-14 specifically requested information about commercial convection ovens and not other commercial oven categories.

Request for Information and Invitation to Submit Proposals

Since the issuance of RFI-2023-11-14, the CEC has conducted additional research, communicated with various stakeholders, and determined that it is appropriate to consider additional types of commercial ovens. For example, it may be appropriate to align with the scope of the ENERGY STAR specification v3.0², which includes commercial convection ovens, combination ovens, and rack ovens. Staff observed that there are numerous other commercial oven categories, including, but not limited to, conventional ovens, conveyor ovens, slow cook-and-hold ovens, deck ovens, hearth ovens, microwave ovens, range ovens, rapid cook ovens, rotisserie ovens, and reel-type ovens, which may benefit from inclusion in the scope of staff's analysis and potential future standards.

Therefore, the CEC is issuing this RFI to invite stakeholders and interested members of the public to provide written comments on the development of efficiency standards for commercial ovens (including both commercial convection ovens and other types of commercial ovens), and to submit proposals to CEC staff on the topic of potential energy efficiency and water consumption standards. Please refer to RFI-2023-11-14 to see the type of information of interest to the CEC and the suggested proposal format.

Additionally, the CEC is seeking feedback on the questions below.

1. Are there other types of commercial ovens, beyond the scope of the ENERGY STAR specification, that the CEC should consider for efficiency standards?
Please elaborate.

Test-and-list requirements are particularly appropriate in scenarios when a given appliance category uses a significant amount of energy and/or water and there is an established test method that can produce relevant performance data, but there is a lack of performance data available to determine what an appropriate efficiency standard could be.³ The data collected through test-and-list requirements can inform market actors, form a basis from which to provide energy or water performance rebates, and support a future proceeding to establish minimum efficiency standards.

² ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Commercial Ovens v3.0.
https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/ENERGY%20STAR%20Version%203.0%20Commercial%20Ovens%20Final%20Specification_0.pdf.

³ For "test-and-list requirements," in-scope commercial oven products are required to be tested using a specified test method and results need to be reported to the CEC's Modernized Appliance Efficiency Database System (MAEDbS). There is no energy or water performance criteria for products subject to test-and-list requirements.

2. Are there any types of commercial ovens that the CEC should consider for test-and-list requirements? Please elaborate.

As mentioned above, it may be appropriate to align proposed appliance efficiency regulations for commercial ovens with one of the recent ENERGY STAR specifications. The latest version of the ENERGY STAR specification is v3.0 which went into effect January 12, 2023. In comparison to the previous specification, v2.2, which went into effect October 7, 2014⁴, the v3.0 ENERGY STAR specification has slightly more stringent requirements on energy and water consumption for certain types of commercial ovens, such as full-size gas convection ovens and gas combination ovens (when operating in convection mode).

Currently, many states have adopted efficiency regulations for commercial ovens with their scope aligning to the ENERGY STAR specification, which covers commercial convection ovens, combination ovens, and rack ovens. Colorado⁵ has adopted ENERGY STAR v3.0 in their appliance efficiency regulations, while several other states, such as Washington⁶, Nevada⁷, Rhode Island⁸, New Jersey⁹, and Massachusetts¹⁰, have adopted ENERGY STAR v2.2 in their appliance efficiency regulations.

3. Should the CEC consider aligning any proposed appliance efficiency regulations on commercial ovens with ENERGY STAR v2.2, ENERGY STAR v3.0, or some other stringency level? Please elaborate and provide as much supporting information as available.

There are numerous rebates offered for commercial ovens in California, including those offered by the investor-owned utilities (IOUs).¹¹ CEC staff acknowledges that any appliance efficiency regulations on commercial ovens will impact those rebate programs.

4. In addition to the rebate programs offered through the IOUs, are there additional rebate programs that the CEC should be aware of?
5. What impact have these rebate programs had on the market of commercial ovens? Please elaborate.

⁴ ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Commercial Ovens v2.2. https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/Commercial%20Ovens%20Final%20Version%202.2%20Specification_0.pdf.

⁵ Colorado House Bill 23-1161. https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/2023a_1161_signed.pdf.

⁶ Washington House Bill Report HB 1619. <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/House/1619%20HBR%20ENV1%2022.pdf>.

⁷ Nevada Assembly Bill 383. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/81st2021/Bill/7985/Text>.

⁸ Rhode Island Assembly Bill 5966. <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/BillText/BillText21/HouseText21/H5966A.pdf>.

⁹ New Jersey Assembly Bill 5160. https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2020/A9999/5160_11.PDF.

¹⁰ Massachusetts 225 CMR. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/225-cmr-900-appliance-standards-regulation/download>.

¹¹ California Foodservice Instant Rebates, California Energy Wise. <https://caenergywise.com/instant-rebates/>.

6. What impact will appliance efficiency standards on commercial ovens have on existing and future rebate programs in California? Please elaborate.

Submitting Comments to the CEC Docket

Public input is important to the rulemaking process. The CEC welcomes public participation.

Written comments must be submitted to the Docket Unit by **October 25, 2024**. Written comments, attachments, and associated contact information (such as address, telephone number, and email address) will become a part of the public record of this proceeding with access available to anyone via any internet search engine. One or more public hearings and public input periods will follow on the proposed regulatory text.

The public have the options to submit its responses either electronically, by email, or by mail. The CEC encourages use of its electronic commenting system. Visit the [e-commenting page](#) at <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/EComment.aspx?docketnumber=23-AAER-01>, which links to the comment page for this docket. Enter your contact information and a comment title describing the subject of your comment(s), and please include the type of appliances you are commenting on. Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached in a format consistent with the California Code of Regulations, Title 20, Section 1208.1.¹² The maximum file size is 10 MB.

Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include the docket number, 23-AAER-01, and the type of appliance (“Commercial Ovens”) in the subject line and send to docket@energy.ca.gov.

If preferred, a paper copy may be submitted to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
RE: Docket No. 23-AAER-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

If interested parties wish to maintain the confidentiality of specific data or information, they should submit an application for confidentiality and the confidential documents directly to the Docket Unit through the e-filing system. For information on applying for confidentiality, interested parties should contact the Docket Unit in the CEC’s Chief Counsel’s Office before submitting a response to this RFI. Otherwise, all responses received will become publicly available. Visit the [Docket Unit](#) at

¹² Media, Format, Content, and other Required Characteristics of Filed Documents:
[https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IC9B8C2B35CCE11EC9220000D3A7C4BC3?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/IC9B8C2B35CCE11EC9220000D3A7C4BC3?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)).

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/about/divisions-and-offices/chief-counsels-office/docket-unit>, which links the application for confidentiality.

Questions regarding submitting comments to the docket, including inquiries regarding confidentiality, should be referred to the Docket Unit at docket@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-5076.

Public Advisor and Other Commission Contacts

The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participating in CEC proceedings. To request interpreting services, reasonable modification or accommodations, and other modifications, contact the Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 957-7910. Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests on availability.

Please direct questions on the subject matter of this RFI to Junhui Huang at junhui.huang@energy.ca.gov. The CEC's Appliance Efficiency Branch can also be contacted by phone at (916) 651-7100.

Media

Please direct media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

Subscribing to CEC's News, Programs, and Events

Interested parties who would like to follow or participate in this proceeding should subscribe to receive updates and information on news, programs, and events from the CEC through [its subscriptions webpage](#) at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31895>. Be sure to include "Appliance Efficiency Standards" in your subscription topics. By subscribing to this service, interested parties are consenting to receive information, notices, and other communications, including information associated with the CEC's efficiency-related rulemaking proceedings, by electronic mail.

Availability of Documents

All records for the process will be accessible in the Appliance Efficiency Regulations for [Commercial Food Service Equipment \(i.e. Commercial Steam Cookers, Commercial Ovens, Commercial Dishwashers, and Commercial Fryers\)](#), 23-AAER-01. When new information is posted, an email will be sent to those on the Appliances subscription list. To receive these notices, subscribe to the list by following the steps in the above section, or subscribe at the [Appliance Efficiency Proceedings webpage](#) at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/rules-and-regulations/appliance-efficiency-regulations-title-20/appliance-efficiency-proceedings>.