



## Breaking News

# Rheem Government Affairs

December 27, 2023

## DOE Publishes Furnace Efficiency Rule

### ***Compliance Deadline Is Now Set***

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published the final rule for energy conservation standards of consumer furnaces, making official the new minimum annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) of 95% in the Federal Register.

Compliance with the amended standards is required on and after **December 18, 2028**.

The text of the final rule was first released in September, kicking off an unusually long waiting period for final publication. Now that the rule is in the Federal register, the window is open for groups to file petitions for review.

### ***DOE Rule Faces Legal Challenge***

The American Gas Association, American Public Gas Association, National Propane Gas Association and manufacturer Thermo Products filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on December 18<sup>th</sup>, citing increased cost burden to consumers.

While the result of the legal challenge will likely take some time to resolve, stakeholders should continue to prepare for the 2028 compliance date as stated in the rule.

## Key Takeaways

The DOE furnace efficiency standard is now fully published.

The minimum efficiency level of 95% AFUE is required for new furnaces by December 18, 2028.

The gas industry has launched a lawsuit against DOE, challenging the final rule.

Full text of the published rule can be found [here](#).

