



Breaking News

Rheem Government Affairs

June 11, 2024

DOE Publishes Rules for Large Commercial AC/HP

New Minimum Efficiency and Metrics for 2029

On May 20th, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) published a final rule that sets energy conservation standards for commercial air-cooled unitary air conditioners and heat pumps with a cooling capacity $\geq 65,000$ Btu/h, making official the terms of the ASRAC (Appliance Standards and Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee) Working Group negotiation conducted in 2022-2023.

Compliance with the amended standards is required on and after **January 1, 2029**.

Concurrent with this publication, DOE also finalizes the revised test procedure for the same equipment category, officially establishing **IVEC** (Integrated Ventilation, Economizing and Cooling) and **IVHE** (Integrated Ventilation and Heating Efficiency) as the new efficiency reporting metrics. Testing to the IVEC and IVHE metrics is required by the same date as the amended energy conservation standard above.

By statute, DOE is required to consider the need for amended standards every six years.

See next page for detailed requirements of the final rule.

Key Takeaways

The DOE standard and test procedure for commercial AC/HP efficiency are now final and published.

New metrics IVEC and IVHE replace IEER and COP and are required by 1/1/2029.

The increases in minimum efficiency set forth in these standards range from 28-35%.

For more information, visit the DOE [rulemaking page](#) for Air-Cooled Unitary Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps



Energy Conservation Standards for ACUACs and ACUHPs

Compliance Starting January 1, 2029

Cooling Capacity	Subcategory	Supplementary Heating Type	Minimum Efficiency
≥65,000 Btu/h and <135,000 Btu/h	AC	Electric Resistance Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 14.3
		All Other Types of Heating	IVEC = 13.8
	HP	All Types of Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 13.4 IVHE = 6.2
≥135,000 Btu/h and <240,000 Btu/h	AC	Electric Resistance Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 13.8
		All Other Types of Heating	IVEC = 13.3
	HP	All Types of Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 13.1 IVHE = 6.0
≥240,000 Btu/h and <760,000 Btu/h	AC	Electric Resistance Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 12.9
		All Other Types of Heating	IVEC = 12.2
	HP	All Types of Heating or No Heating	IVEC = 12.1 IVHE = 5.8

ACUACs: Air-cooled commercial unitary air conditioners with a rated cooling capacity ≥ 65,000 Btu/h

ACUHPs: Air-cooled commercial unitary heat pumps with a rated cooling capacity ≥ 65,000 Btu/h

