

Section-by-section summary of the Implementation of National Consensus Appliance Agreements Act of 2011 (INCAAA)

Purpose: DOE's "Appliance Standards Program" (Title III, Part B of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA) (42 USC 6291)) establishes energy efficiency standards for dozens of appliances and types of commercial equipment. These standards have been extraordinarily effective for improving the nation's economic and energy security, by 2010 reducing national non-transportation energy use by about 7 percent below what it otherwise would be. Appliance manufacturers have supported standards because of their significant national benefits and because they typically replace a patchwork of state regulations. This bill would amend EPCA to enact consensus energy-efficiency standards for a range of products that were agreed to among industry, energy advocate and consumer stakeholders. More specifically,...

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Energy conservation standards: clarifies that 'energy conservation standard' means one or more performance or design requirements such as energy and water efficiency. Adds definitions, effective dates, and standards for: central air conditioners and heat pumps, through-the-wall central air conditioners; through-the-wall central air conditioning heat pumps; small-duct, high-velocity systems; and non-weatherized furnaces, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency advocacy groups. Finally, it provides that building codes may allow for appliance standards to exceed the federal standard in certain cases.

Sec. 3. Energy conservation standards for heat pump pool heaters: adds definitions, standards and effective dates for heat pump pool heaters, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 4. GU-24 base lamps: adds definitions, standards and effective dates for the next-generation, GU-24 lamps, lamp sockets, and adaptors, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 5. Efficiency standards for bottle-type water dispensers, commercial hot food holding cabinets, and portable electric spas: adds definitions, exclusions, test procedures, standards and effective dates for bottle-type water dispensers, commercial hot food holding cabinets, and portable electric spas, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 6. Test procedure petition process: (a) provides that any person may petition DOE to prescribe or amend test procedures and establishes deadlines for DOE to respond to such petitions; and (b) for certain industrial equipment, clarifies that DOE periodically review test procedures, and provides that any person may petition DOE to prescribe or amend test procedures for such equipment and establishes deadlines for DOE to respond to such petitions. It also provides that DOE may use the Direct Final Rule procedure currently available to prescribe consensus standards, to prescribe consensus test procedures.

Sec. 7. Amendments to Home Appliance Test Methods: sets deadlines regarding refrigerator and freezer, clothes washer, and clothes dryer test methods.

Sec. 8. Credit for Energy Star Smart Appliances: directs federal officials to determine whether to update Energy Star criteria for certain products to incorporate smart grid and demand response features.

Sec. 9. Video game console energy efficiency study: directs DOE to conduct a study of video game console energy use and opportunities for energy savings, and upon completion to determine whether to establish an efficiency standard. If standards are not established, then DOE shall conduct a follow-up study.

Sec. 10. Refrigerator and freezer standards: updates definitions, exceptions, standards and effective dates for new standards for refrigerators and freezers, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 11. Room air conditioner standards: establishes new standards and effective dates for room air-conditioners, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 12. Uniform efficiency descriptor for covered water heaters: directs DOE to publish a final rule that establishes a uniform efficiency descriptor and test methods for covered water heaters. The section also sets forth other provisions necessary to transition from the current two descriptors for two types of water heaters, to having a single descriptor for all covered water heaters.

Sec. 13. Clothes dryers: establishes new standards and effective dates for clothes dryers, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 14. Standards for clothes washers: establishes new standards and effective dates for clothes washers, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 15. Dishwashers: establishes new standards and effective dates for dishwashers, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 16. Petition for amended standards: requires DOE to publish an explanation of DOE's decision to grant or deny a petition for a new or amended standard (filed under current law) within 180 days, and to publish the new rule within 3 year in those cases where the petition is granted.

Sec. 17. Prohibited acts: updates certain enforcement provisions to clarify that prohibitions under the law apply to distributors, retailers, and private labelers as well as manufacturers, and clarifies that prohibitions must be "knowingly" violated in the case of regional standards.

Sec. 18. Outdoor lighting: establishes definitions, test methods, standards, and effective dates for certain types of outdoor lighting, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 19. Standards for commercial furnaces: establishes a new standard and effective date for commercial furnaces, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 20. Service over the counter, self-contained, medium temperature commercial Refrigerators: establishes new definitions and a standard and effective date for certain service over the counter refrigerators, as agreed to between manufacturers and efficiency and consumer advocacy groups.

Sec. 21. Motor market assessment and commercial awareness program: directs DOE to assess the U.S. electric motor market and develop recommendations on ways to improve the efficiency of motor systems. It also requires DOE to periodically update this information; estimate the savings attributable to the Save Energy Now Program; make recommendations to the Census Bureau on surveys to support

DOE's motor activities; and prepare an update to the Motor Master+ program of DOE. Finally, based on the assessment and recommendations, the section would direct DOE to establish a program to: increase awareness of the savings opportunities of using higher efficiency motors, improve motor system procurement practices, and establish criteria for making decisions regarding electric motor systems.

Sec. 22. Study of Compliance with Energy Standards for Appliances: directs DOE to conduct, and submit to Congress with any recommendations, a study on the degree of compliance with energy standards for appliances including an investigation of compliance rates and options for improving compliance.

Sec. 23. Study of direct current electricity supply in certain buildings: directs DOE to conduct, and submit to Congress with any recommendations, a study of the costs and benefits of requiring high-quality, direct current electricity supply in certain buildings and to determine, if this requirement is imposed, what the policy and role of the Federal Government should be.

Sec. 24. Technical corrections: makes technical corrections to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Energy Policy and Conservation Act regarding the appliance efficiency standards program.