



## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### 10 CFR Part 431

[EERE-2017-BT-STD-009]

RIN 1904-AD79

### **Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers**

**AGENCY:** Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE).

**ACTION:** Final rule; delay of effective date.

**SUMMARY:** This document delays the effective date of a recently published final rule adopting amended energy conservation standards for walk-in coolers and freezers. DOE also seeks comment on any further delay of the effective date, including the impacts of such delay, as well comment on the legal, factual, or policy issues raised by the rule.

**DATES:** The effective date of the rule amending 10 CFR part 431 published at 89 FR 104616 on December 23, 2024, is delayed until March 21, 2025. Written comments and information will be accepted on or before [INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued the “Regulatory Freeze Pending Review” memorandum, published in the Federal Register on January 28, 2025 (90 FR 8249). This presidential action ordered all executive departments and agencies to consider postponing for 60 days the effective date of certain rules published in the *Federal Register* for the purpose of reviewing any questions of fact, law, and policy that the rules may raise. Additionally, executive departments and agencies were to consider opening a comment period to allow interested parties to provide comments about issues of fact, law, and policy raised by the rules postponed under the memorandum.

In implementation of one of the measures directed by that memorandum, the United States Department of Energy (“DOE”) hereby temporarily postpones the effective date of its final rule adopting amended energy conservation standards for walk-in coolers and freezers (“walk-ins” or “WICFs”) published in the *Federal Register* on December 23, 2024 (89 FR 104616) and an accompanying correction document published in the *Federal Register* on January 7, 2025 (90 FR 1029).

Consistent with the Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2025, DOE is temporarily postponing the effective date of the final rule to March 21, 2025. The temporary delay in effective date is necessary to give DOE officials the opportunity for further review and consideration of new regulations, consistent with the Presidential Memorandum of January 20, 2025.

To the extent that 5 U.S.C. 553 applies to this action, it is exempt from notice and comment because it constitutes a rule of procedure under 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A) and for which no notice or hearing is required by statute. The delay of the effective date to March 21, 2025, does not affect the compliance date for this rule, which remains December 23, 2027, for walk-in non-display doors and December 31, 2028, for walk-in refrigeration systems. DOE is, however,

seeking comment on any further delay of the effective date, including the impacts of such delay, as well as comment on the legal, factual, or policy issues raised by the rule.

### **Signing Authority**

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on February 13, 2025, by Jocelyn Richards, Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the *Federal Register*.

Signed in Washington, DC, on February 14, 2025.

Jennifer Hartzell,  
Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer,  
U.S. Department of Energy.

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