

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Dear Battery Charger System Manufacturer:

The California Energy Commission is committed to providing accurate and timely information about the new efficiency standards, marking and certification requirements recently adopted by the Energy Commission on January 12, 2012. Appliance Efficiency Program staff will work closely with product manufacturers and other stakeholders as these regulations become effective. Our goal is to assist manufacturers in coming into compliance as quickly and easily as possible.

When do the regulations take effect, and how efficient are battery charger systems required to be?

The regulations divide battery charger systems into separate categories with different requirements and effective dates, and will apply to:

- Most small consumer charger systems manufactured on or after February 1, 2013;
- Large battery charger systems and certain USB-based small consumer charger systems manufactured on or after January 1, 2014; and
- Non-consumer charger systems manufactured on or after January 1, 2017.

Because the regulations apply only to products manufactured on or after a certain date, existing stock can be sold until depleted.

Efficiency requirements are calculated based on the capacity of the charger, and are different for large systems (those with over 2 kW input) and small systems. These requirements are fairly technical and can be found in Section 1605.3(w) of the newly adopted regulations.

The Energy Commission is interested in hearing from manufacturers regarding progress toward compliance and any challenges that manufacturers may be encountering. We are open to your feedback and are committed to working with manufacturers in response to your efforts to comply with these new regulations.

How can the Energy Commission assist manufacturers in understanding and complying with these new regulations?

Appliance Efficiency Program staff is available by e-mail and phone to assist manufacturers with questions and concerns. We are also available for face-to-face meetings with you in Sacramento by contacting us at appliances@energy.ca.gov. We will also provide proactive assistance to manufacturers (see below) to help you get your products tested and certified to the Energy Commission.

What materials are available to help me understand the certification requirements?

The Energy Commission is in the process of developing materials regarding the battery charger system regulations and certification process:

1. Staff is developing FAQs for the standards that will summarize products that are covered and those that are not covered under the regulations.
2. Staff will also be developing battery charger systems certification guidelines which will be posted online at www.energy.ca.gov
3. Staff will also develop FAQs for the appliance certification process which will be specific as to battery charger systems.

These materials will be developed in the coming weeks and posted on the Energy Commission's website.

How do I certify my product information to you?

The Energy Commission will publish a packet of forms and instructions for certifying battery charger systems. If you have certified other product information to the Energy Commission before, this process will be familiar – the general instructions are available on the same web page. The process is as follows:

1. Test the product at an approved test laboratory or via an approved industry certification program. If you would like to use a test laboratory that is not already approved, you may do so by including a new test laboratory approval application for that laboratory when you submit your product data.
2. Enter the data that results from the test into an Excel file formatted for uploading into the Energy Commission's Appliance Efficiency Database. Blank, formatted Excel files will be part of the published certification packet.
3. Fill out and sign a declaration form. This form records the contact information for the manufacturer and test laboratory along with a statement that all of the submitted information is true, accurate, and in compliance with the law.
4. E-mail your data file and a scan of your signed declaration to the Energy Commission. If needed, also include a test laboratory approval application for the test laboratory you used.

The e-mail address for our Appliance Efficiency Program is appliances@energy.ca.gov. There are no fees for submitting data or applying for approval. The Energy Commission processes the submittals in the order they are received and may take up to 30 days to respond to a submittal.

Who do I contact if I have any questions about the regulations or compliance?

The best way to contact us is by e-mailing us at appliances@energy.ca.gov.

Our website contains a copy of the regulations and FAQs. Forms and instructions for certifying data are available at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/>.

We would like to reiterate the Energy Commission's commitment to working proactively with manufacturers to help facilitate compliance with our regulations. Please contact us if you have any questions and let us know how we may assist you.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LEAON, Manager
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