

Buy Energy-Efficient Products

A Guide for Federal Purchasers and Specifiers

Inefficient-product purchases can really add up. Last year, they totaled almost a half a billion dollars in wasted energy.

Every day, Federal employees and contractors make product choices. With each choice comes an opportunity to capture ongoing savings through the purchase of energy-efficient products. By purchasing products that exceed required efficiency levels, you save the government even more energy and money.

Purchase Requirements

The U.S. Government must purchase energy-consuming products that meet or exceed the efficiency levels designated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) and ENERGY STAR. DOE conducts rigorous market analysis to ensure that compliant products are cost-effective and represent the upper 25% of their class in energy efficiency. Purchasers can

Do the requirements apply?

Will energy-consuming products be:

- Delivered
- Acquired by the contractor for use in a Federal facility
- Furnished by the contractor for use by the government
- Specified in the design of a building or work
- OR incorporated into its construction, renovation, or maintenance?

Are any of the energy-consuming products covered? Check the covered-product categories list at www.femp.energy.gov/coveredproducts.

If you answered YES to both questions, ³ the contract must include FAR Clause 52.223-15. ³



FEMP estimates that Federal purchases of energy-inefficient products cost the government a half a billion dollars in 2011. *Photo from: iStock 17416102*

also estimate the life-cycle cost (and energy savings) of the products they are considering using the calculators available at www.femp.energy.gov/calculators.

Over the past 20 years, Congress and multiple Presidents have established energy-efficient product procurement requirements. These laws and executive orders (E.O.s) are codified in 42 U.S.C. 8259 and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) part 23.2 and 52.2223-15¹. Many agencies have also incorporated energy-efficient product procurement requirements into their internal policies and rules.

Insist on Energy Efficiency

Federal employees and contractors must be engaged in the way they request and receive products. For example, if you are requesting products, be sure to ask for ENERGY STAR-qualified or those that meet the FEMP-designated efficiency requirements. Additionally, when writing technical specifications, be sure to reference the relevant FEMP-designated or other efficiency requirement. Alternatively, when receiving products, verify they are energy-efficient. Look for the ENERGY STAR label, or check the technical specification to make sure it meets FEMP-designated efficiency requirements.

It is also important for Federal employees to write contracts that comply with energy-efficient requirements.

Write Compliant Contracts

Whenever applicable (see sidebar), insert Clause 52.223-15 into the contract, and develop appropriate evaluation criteria to ensure delivery of compliant products. Doing so will comply with FAR part 23.2 and extend efficiency requirements to contractors. When receiving bids or quotes, request product technical specifications sheets from manufacturers or salespeople to make sure they meet or exceed minimum energy-efficient product procurement requirements.

Find Funding

In many parts of the United States, utilities, states, and other sources offer rebate and incentive programs to encourage the use of energy-efficient products. FEMP researches these programs on a state-by-state basis to help Federal agencies meet their energy management goals. To find out what incentive programs are available in any area, visit www.femp.energy.gov/energyincentives.

¹ www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/eep_modellang.html

Federal agencies can also use a variety of financing tools to pay for energy projects. These funding tools include Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs), Utility Energy Services Contracts (UESCs), and Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). FEMP supports Federal agencies in identifying, obtaining, and implementing project funding for energy projects. More information about this support is available at www.femp.energy.gov/financing/mechanisms.html.

Determine If a Product Is Compliant

If a product category is covered by ENERGY STAR, then it must be ENERGY STAR-qualified to be eligible for Federal purchase. Products that meet ENERGY STAR specifications but have not earned the label do not qualify. FEMP sets minimum energy-efficiency requirements for many commercial products procured by the Federal Government that are not covered by ENERGY STAR. Products covered by FEMP must meet or exceed the relevant FEMP-designated efficiency requirements.

To determine if a product meets the efficiency requirements, follow these steps, which are diagrammed at right.

Step 1: Visit FEMP’s Covered Product Categories page at www.femp.energy.gov/coveredproducts and choose the tab for the relevant covered-product category.

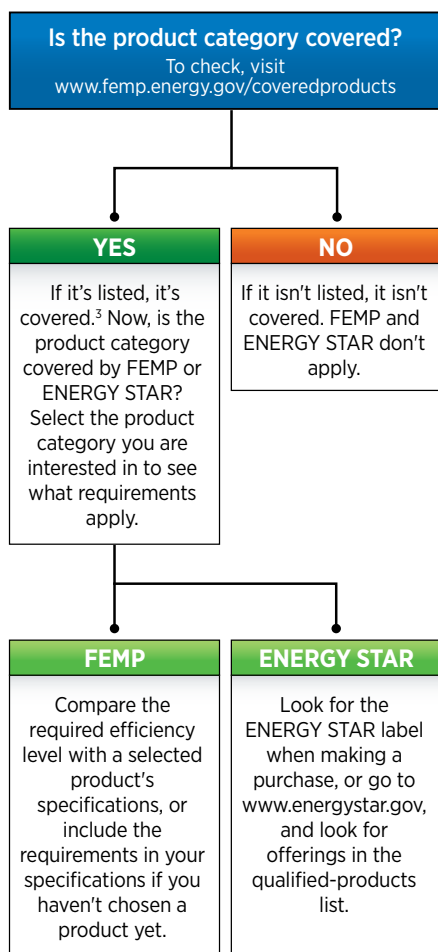
Step 2: Within the applicable tab, choose the product type and scroll down to the “Efficiency Requirements for Federal Purchases” table to find the relevant parameters for your type of product. This may be the capacity, fuel type, or other product characteristics. Compare the FEMP requirements from “Efficiency Requirements for Federal Purchases” with your product’s technical specifications, keeping in mind that compliance must be determined based on the industry-recognized testing standards identified by FEMP. Any product that meets or exceeds the listed level meets Federal energy efficiency requirements.

When making a purchase, look for the performance of the product you’ve selected and compare it to the efficiency requirement. When specifying a product for purchase, make sure to specify the FEMP-designated efficiency requirement.

ENERGY STAR

For a list of ENERGY STAR-qualified makes and models, visit the ENERGY STAR website,² select the product category in which you are interested, and look for the Qualified Products List. When making a purchase, look for the ENERGY STAR logo.

Determining Product Compiancy



² See www.energystar.gov.

³ Within a covered-product category, products with certain characteristics (size, capacity, or fuel type) may not be covered. Refer to the relevant efficiency requirement to confirm coverage.

Resources

FEMP has a variety of resources available to further the purchase of energy-efficient products. They include:

- **Covered Product Categories List:** This list summarizes which product categories the Federal requirements cover (www.eere.energy.gov/femp/pdfs/eeprod_categories.pdf).
- **Buying Guidance:** FEMP provides tips to help procurement professionals select the right product, size it properly, install it correctly, and use it effectively (www.femp.energy.gov/coveredproducts).
- **Cost Calculators:** Calculate the impact of a purchase and get estimates on cost-savings payback times to help demonstrate the value of a purchase with FEMP and ENERGY STAR cost calculators (www.femp.energy.gov/calculators).
- **New and Underutilized Technologies:** FEMP has identified 50 new and underutilized technologies with demonstrated energy savings (www.eere.energy.gov/femp/technologies/new_technologies.html).
- **Outreach and Training:** FEMP offers information and training on energy-efficient product procurement. Live and on-demand sessions are available on the FEMP website (www.femp.energy.gov/training).
- **Commit to Efficiency Campaign:** When you commit to efficiency, you gain access to free training and technical assistance (www.femp.energy.gov/commit).
- **Standby Power Data Center:** FEMP’s Standby Power Data Center has a database of products with manufacturer-reported standby power measurements and tells if products meet standby power requirements (www.femp.energy.gov/standby).

FEMP is here to help. Resources are consistently updated and supplemented, so visit the FEMP website at www.femp.energy.gov/procurement often. For more information, contact Amanda Sahl at amanda.sahl@ee.doe.gov.