

Information Reading Room (Room No. 1E-190) at the U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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Francine Pinto, Esq., U.S. Department of Energy, Office of General Counsel, GC-72, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9507, e-mail: *Francine.Pinto@hq.doe.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) proposes an amendment to the test procedure for measuring the energy consumption of refrigerators and refrigerator-freezers. The amendment changes the calculation of the test time period for long-time automatic defrost to allow for a control capable of timing defrost to occur other than during a compressor "on" cycle, thereby taking advantage of the natural warming of the evaporator during an "off" cycle, and saving additional energy. The amendment has no effect on the testing of refrigerators and refrigerator-freezers that do not have a long-time automatic defrost system.

Today, the Department of Energy (Department) is also publishing, elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, a direct final rule that makes the change to this test procedure that is being proposed in this NPR. As explained in the preamble of the direct final rule, the Department considers this amendment to be uncontroversial and unlikely to generate any significant adverse or critical comments. If no significant adverse or critical comments are received by the Department on the amendment, the direct final rule will become effective on the date specified in that rule, and there will be no further action on this proposal. If significant adverse or critical comments are timely received on the direct final rule, the direct final rule will be withdrawn. The public comments will then be addressed in a subsequent final rule based on the rule proposed in this NPR (which is the same as the rule set forth in the direct final rule). Because the Department will not institute a second comment period on this proposed rule, any parties interested in commenting should do so during this comment period.

For further supplemental information, the detailed rationale, and the rule amendment, *see* the information provided in the direct final rule in this **Federal Register**.

**List of Subjects in 10 CFR Part 430**

Administrative practice and procedure, Energy conservation, Household appliances.

Issued in Washington, DC, on February 28, 2003.

**David K. Garman,**

*Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.*

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**FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM**

**12 CFR Part 203**

**[Regulation C; Docket No. R-1145]**

**Home Mortgage Disclosure**

**AGENCY:** Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; official staff commentary.

**SUMMARY:** In 2002, the Board revised Regulation C and imposed new data collection requirements with an effective date of January 1, 2004. This proposal would revise the official staff commentary to Regulation C to provide transition rules for applications received before January 1, 2004, on which final action is taken on or after January 1, 2004.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before April 8, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should refer to Docket No. R-1145 and should be mailed to Jennifer Johnson, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20551, or mailed electronically to *regs.comments@federalreserve.gov*. Comments addressed to Ms. Johnson may also be delivered, between 8:45 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., to the Board's mail facility in the West Courtyard, located on 21st Street between Constitution and C Street, NW. Members of the public may inspect comments in Room MP-500 of the Martin Building between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays pursuant to § 261.12, except as provided in § 261.14, of the Board's Rules Regarding Availability of Information, 12 CFR 261.12 and 261.14.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John C. Wood, Counsel, Kathleen C. Ryan, Senior Attorney, or Dan S. Sokolov, Attorney, Division of Consumer and

Community Affairs, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551, at (202) 452-3667 or (202) 452-2412. For users of Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) only, contact (202) 263-4869.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA; 12 U.S.C. 2801-2810) has three purposes. One is to provide the public and government officials with data that will help show whether lenders are serving the housing needs of the neighborhoods and communities in which they are located. A second purpose is to help public officials target public investment to promote private investment where it is needed. A third purpose is to provide data that assist in identifying possible discriminatory lending patterns and enforcing antidiscrimination statutes.

HMDA accordingly requires certain depository and for-profit nondepository lenders to collect, report, and disclose data about originations, purchases, and refinancings of home purchase and home improvement loans. Lenders must also report data about applications that did not result in originations.

The Board's Regulation C implements HMDA. 12 CFR part 203. Regulation C generally requires that lenders report data about:

- *Each application or loan*, including the application date; the action taken and the date of that action; the loan amount; the loan type and purpose; and, if the loan is sold, the type of purchaser;
- *Each applicant or borrower*, including ethnicity, race, sex, and income; and
- *Each property*, including location and occupancy status.

Lenders report this information to their supervisory agencies on an application-by-application basis using a loan application register format (HMDA/LAR) set forth in appendix A to the regulation. Each application must be recorded within 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter in which final action is taken (such as origination or purchase of a loan, or denial or withdrawal of an application) on the lender's HMDA/LAR. Lenders must make their HMDA/LARs—with certain fields redacted to preserve applicants' privacy—available to the public. The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), acting on behalf of the supervisory agencies, compiles the reported information and prepares an individual disclosure statement for each institution, aggregate reports for all covered lenders in each metropolitan