

**Revision of the Ministerial Notification, Enforcement Ordinance and Enforcement Regulation (Cabinet Order) under the Law Concerning the Rational Use of Energy.**

July 2005

Agency of Natural Resources and Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Division

1. Outline of the system

Under Article 18 of the Law concerning the Rational Use of Energy (Law No. 49 of 1979; hereinafter referred to as the "Energy Efficiency Law"), the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry should decide and make public the standards for judgment of manufacturers and importers about improvement in the performance of specific machines (the "energy efficiency standards"). It is prescribed in the Energy Efficiency Law that new energy efficiency standards should be established taking account of the energy efficiency of the specific machines which have the highest energy efficiency and other related factors. (It is called the "Top Runner Program".)

The specific machines are defined in Article 7 of the Enforcement Ordinance for the Energy Efficiency Law and those excluded from the specific machines are defined in Article 12 of the Enforcement Regulations for the Energy Efficiency Law. The Energy Efficiency standards are established by the notifications of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

2. Outline of amendment

The main points of amendment are as follows:

- (1) The Energy Efficiency Law covered electric rice cooker are added .
- (2) The Energy Efficiency Law covered liquid crystal television, plasma television, and digital versatile disk recorder are added.

3. Background

1) Positioning of energy efficiency measures

The additional designation and energy efficiency standards of the specified machines under the Energy Efficiency Law was specified in the white paper of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Subcommittee (June 2000), and future energy efficiency measures shall be decided upon through implementation of those measures.

2) Establishment of the new energy efficiency standard

The new energy efficiency standard was examined by the Energy Efficiency Standards Sub-committee of the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy and by a working group created in the Sub-committee of the Gas and Oil Appliances constituted from people of experience or academic standing, industry representations and informed persons.

To listen to the opinions of organizations in Japan including foreign related persons as well as the general public to reflect them of the discussion at the working group, the interim report was

published for three weeks on the Internet Website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. No opinions were submitted from foreign-related persons.

The opinions thus obtained were presented and discussed at the working group and the original plan of the energy efficiency standard was finalized based on the discussion. (Concerning foreign-related persons, an opportunity to participate was publicized by the Official Bulletin of Economy, Trade and Industry and the JETRO Daily Trade Report. There was no participation from foreign-related persons.)