

Revision to Enforcement Regulation for the Law Concerning the Rational Use of Energy and Ministerial Notification of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

May 2008

**Agency of Natural Resources and Energy
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Division**

1. Outline of the system

Under Article 78 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 shall 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 need to 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 21 of the Enforcement Ordinance for the Energy Efficiency Law and those excluded from the specific machines are defined in Article 48 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 standards are reviewed for household use air conditioners with cooling capacity of over 4.0 kW and business use air conditioners
- (2) □ The energy efficiency standards are newly established for Routers and Switches

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 2004), 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 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 a month on the Internet Website of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. No opinions were submitted from foreign-related persons.

(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.)

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