

# Rules and Regulations

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains regulatory documents having general applicability and legal effect, most of which are keyed to and codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, which is published under 50 titles pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1510.

The Code of Federal Regulations is sold by the Superintendent of Documents.

## POSTAL SERVICE

### 5 CFR Part 7001

#### Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the United States Postal Service; Correction

**AGENCY:** Postal Service™.

**ACTION:** Correcting amendments.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains corrections to a final rule that was published in the **Federal Register** on August 8, 2023. The final rule amended the United States Postal Service's (Postal Service) Supplemental Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the United States Postal Service (Supplemental Standards), which were issued by the Postal Service with the concurrence of the United States Office of Government Ethics (OGE).

**DATES:** *Effective date:* February 2, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ruth Stevenson, Chief Counsel, Ethics & Legal Compliance, United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-1101, 202-268-6936.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

On August 8, 2023, the Postal Service published a final rule amending its Supplemental Standards. 88 FR 53351. The final rule updated the outside employment and activity provisions (including prior approval requirements and prohibitions), added new requirements applicable to Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG) employees, Postal Service Governors, the Postmaster General, and the Deputy Postmaster General, and made limited technical and ministerial changes.

##### II. Need for Correction

The final rule incorrectly listed two internal cross-reference citations contained in the outside employment

and business activities restrictions section, § 7001.102. This technical correction amends the Supplemental Standards by updating the cross-references.

#### List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 7001

Conflict of interests, Ethical standards, Executive branch standards of conduct, Government employees.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the United States Postal Service, with the concurrence of the United States Office of Government Ethics, amends 5 CFR part 7001 as follows:

#### PART 7001—SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

■ 1. The authority citation for 5 CFR part 7001 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. 7301; 5 U.S.C. Chapter 131; 39 U.S.C. 401; E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306; 5 CFR 2635.105, 2635.802, and 2635.803.

■ 2. In § 7001.102, example 1 to paragraph (a)(2)(ii) and paragraph (c)(2) are revised to read as follows:

#### § 7001.102 Restrictions on outside employment and business activities.

- (a) \* \* \*
- (2) \* \* \*
- (ii) \* \* \*

*Example 1 to paragraph (a)(2)(ii):* United Parcel Service (UPS), Federal Express (FedEx), Amazon, or DHL offers a part-time job to a Postal Service employee. Because UPS, FedEx, Amazon and DHL are persons engaged in the delivery outside the mails of mailable matter (as defined in paragraph (d)(3) of this section) that is not daily newspapers, the employee may not engage in employment with UPS, FedEx, Amazon, or DHL in any location in any capacity while continuing employment with the Postal Service in any location in any capacity. If the employee chooses to work for UPS, FedEx, Amazon, or DHL, the employee must end his or her postal employment before commencing work for that company.

- \* \* \* \* \*
- (c) \* \* \*

(2) *When prior approval required.* A Special Agent or Criminal Investigator

shall also request and obtain written approval prior to engaging in outside employment or business activities which he or she is required to report under paragraph (c)(1) of this section. A request for approval shall be submitted to the OIG's Office of General Counsel, which will be reviewed under the same standard stated in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Ruth Stevenson,**

*Chief Counsel, Ethics and Legal Compliance United States Postal Service.*

**Shelley Finlayson,**

*Acting Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics.*

[FR Doc. 2024-01866 Filed 2-1-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

## FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

### 16 CFR Part 305

#### RIN 3084-AB15

#### Energy Labeling Rule

**AGENCY:** Federal Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Trade Commission ("Commission") amends its Energy Labeling Rule ("Rule") by publishing new ranges of comparability for required EnergyGuide labels on televisions.

**DATES:** The amendments are effective May 2, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Relevant portions of the record of this proceeding, including this document, are available at <https://www.ftc.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Hampton Newsome, (202) 326-2889, or Hong Park, (202) 326-2158, Attorneys, Division of Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Room CC-6316, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The Commission issued the Energy Labeling Rule in 1979 pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of

1975 (“EPCA”).<sup>1</sup> The Rule covers several categories of major household products, including televisions. It requires manufacturers of covered products to disclose specific energy consumption or efficiency information (derived from Department of Energy (“DOE”) test procedures) at the point of sale. In addition, each label must include a “range of comparability” indicating the highest and lowest energy consumption or efficiencies for comparable models. The Commission updates these ranges periodically.

**II. Range Updates for Televisions**

The Commission amends its television ranges in 16 CFR 305.25(f)(5) based on test data generated from DOE’s revised test procedure. In a rule document published in October 2022 issuing range updates for other covered products, the Commission postponed television range updates until DOE finalized a new test procedure for those products.<sup>2</sup> The document stated the FTC would publish updated ranges after data derived from the upcoming test procedure became available. DOE has issued a final test update, and new data is now available.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, this publication contains the updates to the television ranges, along with related sample labels. In addition, these amendments update the cost figure on the television label to 16 cents per kWh based on the most recent national electricity cost information published by DOE.<sup>4</sup> Manufacturers should begin using the new ranges on labels for newly-produced units no later than May 2, 2024.

**III. Regulatory Flexibility Act**

The provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act relating to a Regulatory Flexibility Act analysis<sup>5</sup> are not applicable to this proceeding because the amendments do not impose any new obligations on entities regulated by the Energy Labeling Rule. These technical amendments merely provide a routine change to the range and cost information already required on EnergyGuide labels. The Commission has concluded, therefore, that a regulatory flexibility analysis is not necessary, and certifies, under Section 605 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, that the amendments announced today will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.<sup>6</sup>

**IV. Paperwork Reduction Act**

The current Rule contains recordkeeping, disclosure, testing, and reporting requirements that constitute information collection requirements as defined by 5 CFR 1320.3(c), the definitional provision within the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) regulations that implement the Paperwork Reduction Act (“PRA”). OMB has approved the Rule’s existing information collection requirements through February 29, 2024 (OMB Control No. 3084–0069). The amendments now being adopted do not change the substance or frequency of the recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting requirements and, therefore, do not require further OMB clearance.

**V. Other Matters**

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the OMB’s Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this rule as not a “major rule,” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

**List of Subjects in 16 CFR Part 305**

Advertising, Energy conservation, Household appliances, Labeling, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, 16 CFR part 305 is amended as follows:

**PART 305—ENERGY AND WATER USE LABELING FOR CONSUMER PRODUCTS UNDER THE ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT (“ENERGY LABELING RULE”)**

■ 1. The authority citation for Part 305 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 6294.

■ 2. In § 305.25, revise paragraphs (f)(4) and (5) to read as follows:

**§ 305.25 Television labeling.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) \* \* \*

(4) Estimated annual energy costs determined in accordance with this part, and based on a usage rate of 5 hours in on mode and 19 hours in standby (sleep) mode per day, and an electricity cost rate of 16 cents per kWh.

(5) The applicable ranges of comparability for estimated annual energy costs based on the labeled product’s diagonal screen size, according to the following table:

TABLE 1 TO PARAGRAPH (f)(5)

Screen size (diagonal)	Annual energy cost ranges for televisions	
	Low	High
16–20” (16.0 to 20.49”) .....	\$7	\$7
21–23” (20.5 to 23.49”) .....	(*)	(*)
24–29” (23.5 to 29.49”) .....	5	15
30–34” (29.5 to 34.49”) .....	8	30
35–39” (34.5 to 39.49”) .....	19	20
40–44” (39.5 to 44.49”) .....	13	51
45–49” (44.5 to 49.49”) .....	40	40
50–54” (49.5 to 54.49”) .....	22	51
55–59” (54.5 to 59.49”) .....	24	69
60–64” (59.5 to 64.49”) .....	29	113
65–69” (64.5 to 69.49”) .....	27	110
69.5” or greater .....	32	155

\* No data.

<sup>1</sup> 42 U.S.C. 6294; 44 FR 66466 (Nov. 19, 1979). EPCA also requires the Department of Energy (“DOE”) to set minimum efficiency standards and develop test procedures to measure energy use.

<sup>2</sup> 87 FR 61465 (Oct. 12, 2022); *see* 87 FR 11892 (Mar. 2, 2022) (DOE NPRM).

<sup>3</sup> 88 FR 16082 (Mar. 15, 2023) (DOE Final Rule).

<sup>4</sup> 88 FR 58575 (Aug. 28, 2023) (cost figure rounded consistent with 16 CFR 305, Appendices K1 and K2).

<sup>5</sup> *See* 5 U.S.C. 603–604.

<sup>6</sup> 5 U.S.C. 605.

\* \* \* \* \*

■ 3. In § 305.27, revise paragraph (b)(1)(i)(F) to read as follows:

§ 305.27 Paper catalogs and websites.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (b) \* \* \*
- (1) \* \* \*
- (i) \* \* \*

(F) *Televisions.* The estimated annual operating cost determined in accordance with this part, and a disclosure stating “Your energy cost depends on your utility rates and use. The estimated cost is based on 16 cents per kWh and 5 hours of use per day. For more information, visit [www.ftc.gov/energy](http://www.ftc.gov/energy).”

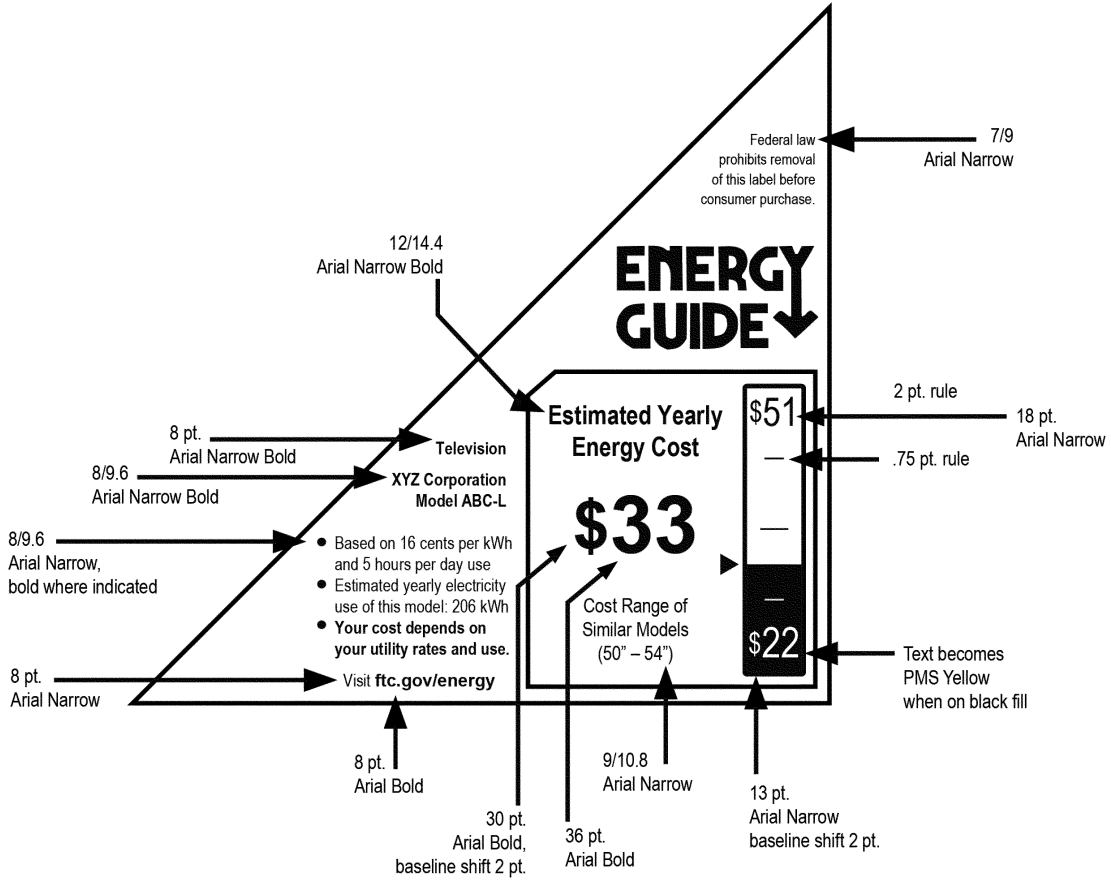
\* \* \* \* \*

■ 4. Revise Prototype Labels 8, 9, and 10 and Sample Labels 14, 15, and 16 in Appendix L to read as follows:

BILLING CODE 6750-01-P

Appendix L to Part 305—Sample Labels

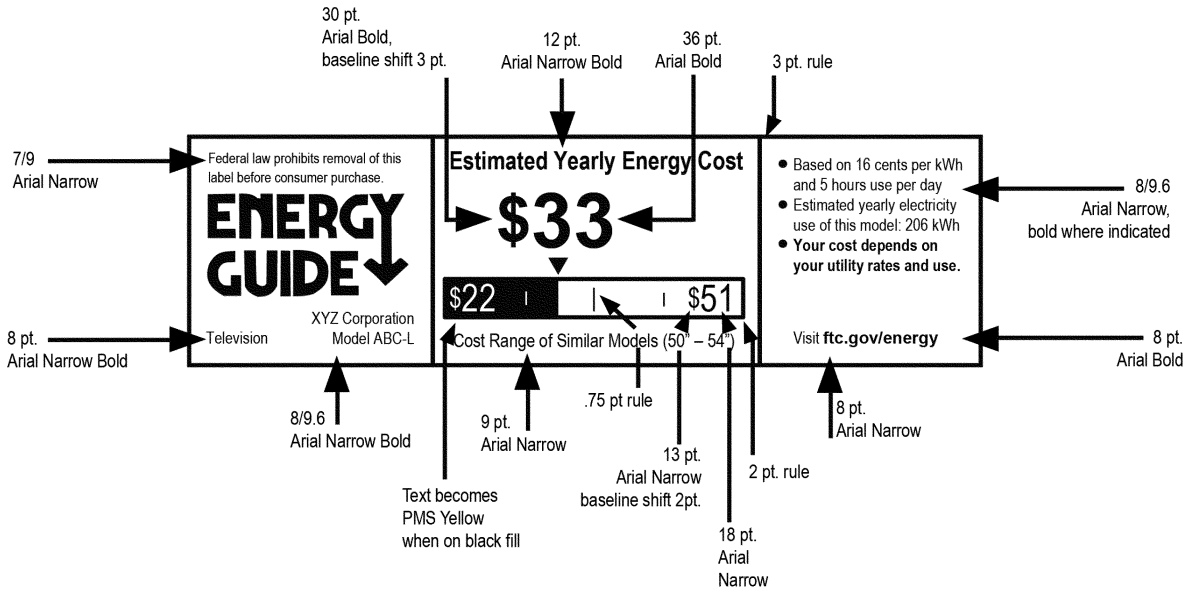
\* \* \* \* \*



Minimum label size right angle triangle 4.5" x 4.5"

\* Typeface is Arial Narrow and Arial or equivalent type style. Type sizes shown are minimum allowable. Use bold or heavy typeface where indicated. Type is black printed on process yellow or equivalent color background. Energy Star logo, if applicable, must be at least 0.36" wide.

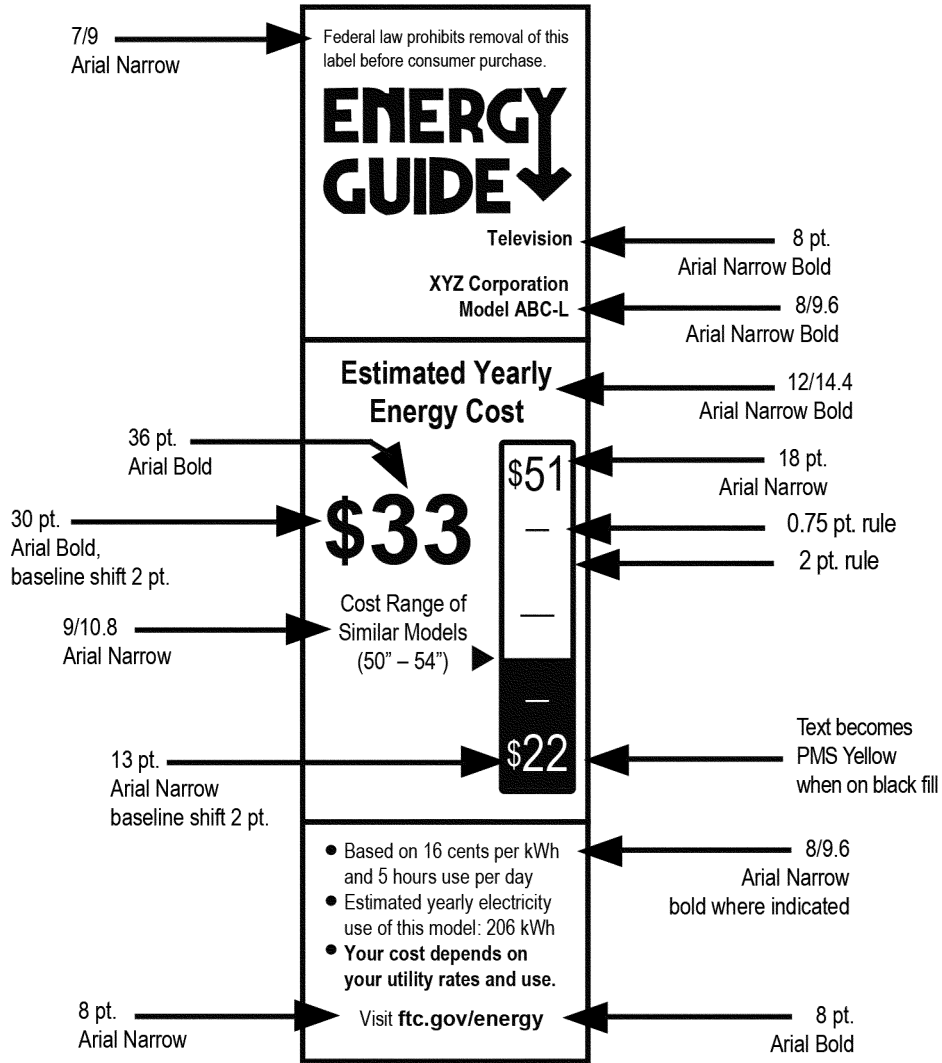
**Prototype Label 8, Triangular  
Television Label**



Minimum label size 1.5" x 5.25

\* Typeface is Arial Narrow and Arial or equivalent type style. Type sizes shown are minimum allowable. Use bold or heavy typeface where indicated. Type is black printed on process yellow or equivalent color background. Energy Star logo, if applicable, must be at least 0.36" wide.

**Prototype Label 9, Horizontal Rectangular Television Label**

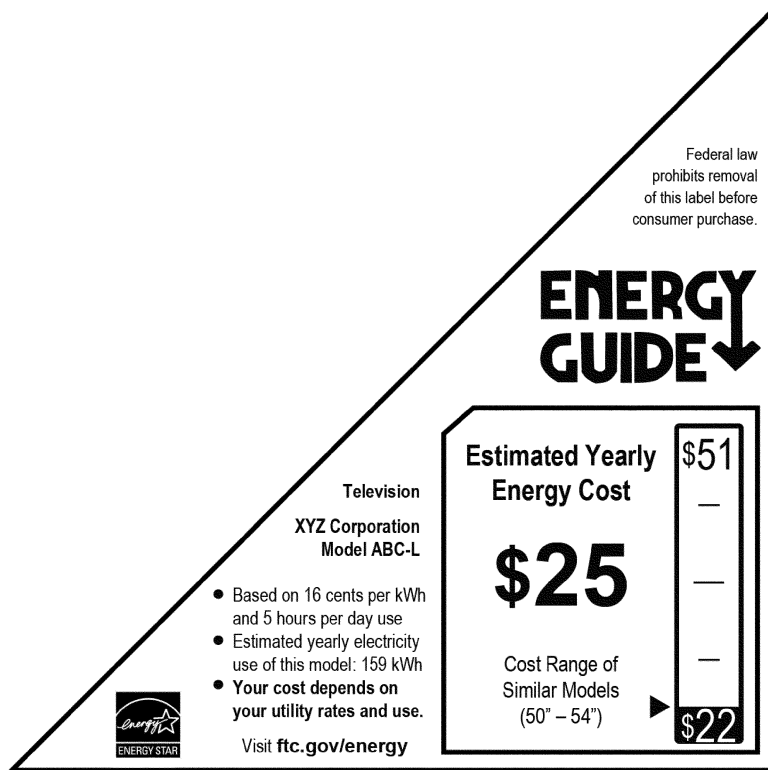
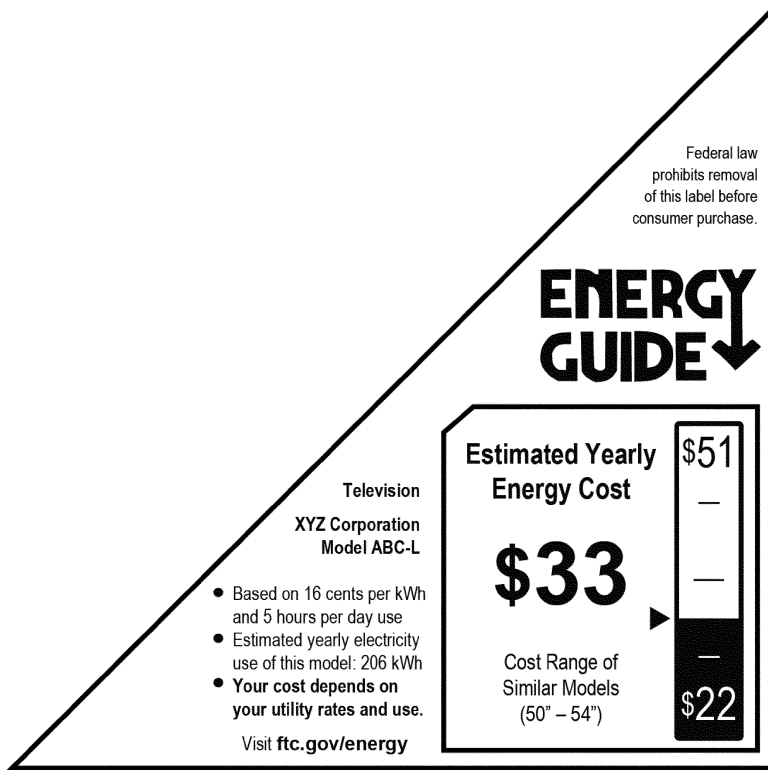


Minimum label size 1.5" x 5.5"

\* Typeface is Arial Narrow and Arial or equivalent type style. Type sizes shown are minimum allowable. Use bold or heavy typeface where indicated. Type is black printed on process yellow or equivalent color background. Energy Star logo, if applicable, must be at least 0.36" wide.

**Prototype Label 10, Vertical Rectangular Television Label**

\* \* \* \* \*



Sample Label 14, Triangular Television Labels

Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

**ENERGY GUIDE**

Television

XYZ Corporation  
Model ABC-L

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**Estimated Yearly Energy Cost**

**\$33**

Cost Range of Similar Models (50" – 54")

\$51  
—  
—  
—  
**\$22**

---

- Based on 16 cents per kWh and 5 hours use per day
- Estimated yearly electricity use of this model: 206 kWh
- **Your cost depends on your utility rates and use.**

Visit [ftc.gov/energy](https://www.ftc.gov/energy)

Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

**ENERGY GUIDE**

Television

XYZ Corporation  
Model ABC-L


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**Estimated Yearly Energy Cost**

**\$25**

Cost Range of Similar Models (50" – 54")

\$51  
—  
—  
—  
**\$22**




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- Based on 16 cents per kWh and 5 hours use per day
- Estimated yearly electricity use of this model: 159 kWh
- **Your cost depends on your utility rates and use.**

Visit [ftc.gov/energy](https://www.ftc.gov/energy)

Sample Label 15, Vertical Television Labels

<p>Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.</p> <p><b>ENERGY GUIDE</b></p> <p>Television</p> <p>XYZ Corporation Model ABC-L</p>	<p><b>Estimated Yearly Energy Cost</b></p> <p><b>\$33</b></p> <p>\$22       \$51</p> <p>Cost Range of Similar Models (50" – 54")</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on 16 cents per kWh and 5 hours use per day</li> <li>Estimated yearly electricity use of this model: 206 kWh</li> <li>Your cost depends on your utility rates and use.</li> </ul> <p>Visit <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/energy">ftc.gov/energy</a></p>
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<p>Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.</p> <p><b>ENERGY GUIDE</b></p> <p>Television</p> <p>XYZ Corporation Model ABC-L</p>	<p><b>Estimated Yearly Energy Cost</b></p> <p><b>\$25</b></p> <p>\$22       \$51</p> <p>Cost Range of Similar Models (50" – 54")</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on 16 cents per kWh and 5 hours use per day</li> <li>Estimated yearly electricity use of this model: 159 kWh</li> <li>Your cost depends on your utility rates and use.</li> </ul> <p>Visit <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/energy">ftc.gov/energy</a></p> 
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### Sample Label 16, Horizontal Television Labels

\* \* \* \* \*

By direction of the Commission.

**April J. Tabor,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2024–02036 Filed 2–1–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750–01–C

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### 24 CFR Part 202

[Docket No. FR–6321–F–02]

RIN 2502–AJ63

### Changes in Branch Office Registration Requirements

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, HUD.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner is issuing final regulations to amend the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) requirement for branch office registration. The final rule removes the requirement that lenders and mortgagees register each branch office where they conduct FHA business with HUD. After considering public comments received in response to the proposed rule HUD published on March

1, 2023, this final rule adopts the proposed rule without change.

**DATES:** Effective March 4, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Timothy Laramie, Mortgage Approval Analyst, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number 202–402–6814 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

On March 1, 2023, HUD published the “Changes in Branch Office Registration Requirements” proposed rule (“the proposed rule”) in the **Federal Register**.<sup>1</sup> In the proposed rule, HUD sought to revise 24 CFR 202.5(k) and (i) by eliminating the requirement that a lender or mortgagee register all branch offices used to conduct FHA business. This change would give lenders and mortgagees (1) the option to select which offices to register and maintain as branch offices with HUD, and (2) make fees applicable to each branch office that a lender or mortgagee registers with HUD, rather than applying fees to each

<sup>1</sup> 88 FR 12906.

branch office where they are authorized to originate Title I or Title II loans. HUD based these changes on the mortgage industry’s evolution over time, the advancement of technology, and due to no longer needing to maintain several branch offices to conduct FHA business nationwide.

Prior to 1995, HUD required each mortgagee office to get approval from the FHA Field Office(s) located where the lender or mortgagee intended to submit mortgages for insurance endorsement.<sup>2</sup> After 1995, HUD expanded the geographic areas where lenders and mortgagees were allowed to conduct FHA business. The expansion allowed FHA Field Offices to create a “lending area” and permitted lenders and mortgagees to conduct business with several FHA Field Offices within that area. HUD required that lenders and mortgagees “maintain at least one approved branch office within a ‘lending area from which loans are submitted to the FHA Field Offices.’”<sup>3</sup> Currently, HUD follows its policy from HUD Handbook 4000.1 that was established in September of 2015. This policy calls a geographic area where a

<sup>2</sup> See HUD, *Mortgagee Letter 95–36: Mortgagee Approval—Single Family Loan Production—Revised Mortgagee/Program Requirements*, Aug. 2, 1995, [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC\\_20554.TXT](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_20554.TXT).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*; See also HUD Handbook 4060.1 REV–1, *Mortgagee Approval Handbook I (4060.1)—Chapter 5 Part A. Branch Offices*, <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/40601C5HSGH.PDF>.