

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



**OFFICE OF AIR
AND RADIATION**

February 23, 2018

Dear ENERGY STAR® Televisions Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the final Version 8.0 ENERGY STAR Televisions specification. The attached document outlines the eligibility criteria for TVs under ENERGY STAR Version 8.0. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort to contribute feedback that has informed this product specification process. The effective date of this ENERGY STAR TV specification will be March 1, 2019.

With Version 8.0, EPA revised the specification to ensure that TVs deliver promised energy savings without a sacrifice in performance. EPA worked closely with stakeholders to develop this specification through four draft specifications, four stakeholder webinars, and numerous group and individual stakeholder meetings. Issues raised by stakeholders in the context of this revision have been vetted with EPA senior officials, and numerous accommodations have been made such that this final specification reflects a good balance between the need to ensure savings while preserving manufacturers' freedom to innovate in their designs. For example, over the course of this process EPA eased minimum brightness requirements for dark room viewing and increased the number of preset picture settings that could exclude automatic brightness control (ABC) when the TV is certified with such energy saving features enabled.

In response to industry feedback following the release of a revised Final Draft, EPA has made further adjustments.

- To ensure alignment with upcoming changes to the Federal "Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Energy Consumption of Television Sets," which will be informed by the just-finalized Consumer Technology Association (CTA) 2037-B test method, the final specification is structured such that the ABC persistence requirements default to the Federal test method upon finalization.
- The requirements around consumer alerts when television settings are changed have been adjusted to reduce the need for warnings.
- The specification's effective date has been shifted to better align with the model year cycle.

EPA received an additional request to further ease both the average and dark room viewing minimum brightness requirements. EPA analyzed this latest proposal and found that accepting it amounted to accepting up to a 30 percent reduction in the average brightness for 75 percent of the models in the ENERGY STAR dataset. Further, the proposal did not guard against overly dim ENERGY STAR TVs at 3 lux. As recently as January of 2018, Consumers Union advised consumers to disable the ENERGY STAR setting due to dimness. Except for the changes noted, the specification requirements remain unchanged from the previous final draft.

EPA shares stakeholder interest in ensuring that product test conditions reflect real world viewing conditions to the best extent possible. Recently, EPA learned of a new pixel technology where TV luminance recorded using a static monochrome test pattern varies meaningfully from performance using a dynamic test clip with color content. Such an example, in addition to the emergence of HDR upscaling capability, HDR content, and the prevalence of UHD technology, all reflect the need to update the test content to account for such variations in technology. Both EPA and DOE look forward to working with stakeholders on any future efforts to update test content that allows for products to accurately reflect energy savings, while still delivering an optimal consumer experience.

Transition Timeline and Next Steps

EPA shares its Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next, such that ENERGY STAR labeled products meet the latest requirements when they go into effect and Partners have time to transition their collateral material. With this in mind, and consistent with its approach for other product categories, EPA is sharing the following timeline for transitioning to Version 8.0:

- Effective immediately, Partners may elect to have their EPA-recognized certification body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 8.0 requirements.
- After August 15 2018, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 7.0. Note, however, that existing certifications will remain valid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until February 28, 2019.
- Any televisions manufactured as of March 1, 2019, must meet Version 8.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 7.0 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 8.0 to EPA.

Please note that ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to consumers or end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however, the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR Partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only Partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

Third-party Certification

As a reminder, all new products must be certified by an EPA-recognized CB before being labeled and marketed as ENERGY STAR. Upon satisfactory completion of all certification requirements, a CB will notify the Partner that the product is ENERGY STAR certified and will submit certified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. For more information on the Third-party Certification program please visit www.energystar.gov/3rdPartyCert.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you certify and market your energy-efficient Television products. If you have any questions or concerns about the specification or partnership process, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9845 or Radulovic.Verena@epa.gov. For any questions related to the Test Method, please contact Jeremy Domm, DOE, at (202) 586-9870 or Jeremy.Dommu@ee.doe.gov

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Verena Radulovic". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V'.

Verena Radulovic, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:

Final Version 8.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Televisions
Revised Final Draft Version 8.0 Comment-response Document