

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



**OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION**

September 14, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Manufacturing Partner or Other Interested Party:

For the past year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been working with a wide range of stakeholders to develop, seek feedback on, and implement enhancements to the testing and verification aspects of the ENERGY STAR program. This effort is reflective of EPA's ongoing commitment to maintain ENERGY STAR's strength as a brand that consumers can be confident in.

In recent months, EPA has released final requirements for accreditation bodies (ABs), test laboratories, and certification bodies (CBs) that wish to participate in the ENERGY STAR program. Applications for EPA recognition are now available in all three categories and EPA has begun the review and approval process. A current list of recognized ABs can be found at www.energystar.gov/testingandverification. ABs, test labs, and CBs will be added to this list as additional applications are received and approved. EPA recognizes the important role each of these entities will play in the successful implementation of an enhanced testing and verification program, and is doing everything possible to facilitate broad participation.

EPA remains committed to implementing these enhancements to the ENERGY STAR program by the end of this calendar year. It is our intent that they will be made effective through changes to the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments. The purpose of this letter is to:

- Share and seek input on changes to the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments that will define requirements for participation in a third-party certification program and for testing products in recognized laboratories.
- Make minor refinements to the Product Specifications for most ENERGY STAR product categories to make them easier for third parties to interpret and apply.
- Propose more substantive, technical clarifications to the Product Specifications for a limited set of products, taking advantage of this opportunity to seek stakeholder feedback on both matters at one time.

Proposed Revisions to the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments

EPA has added requirements specific to third-party certification and the use of recognized labs. For appliances, EPA has added a requirement for annual submission of unit shipment data, to

bring these product categories into alignment with all other product categories. Finally, to improve readability, EPA has reformatted the document to group together related topics.

Proposed Refinements to ENERGY STAR Product Specifications

As part of EPA’s commitment to creating a clear and effective product qualification process, a limited set of refinements and formatting changes to the Product Specifications, including both eligibility criteria and test methods, have been proposed for most products. These refinements can be characterized as follows:

- Added “family” definitions for product categories where they were lacking.
- Standardized language regarding specification effective dates and significant digits and rounding.
- Applied a consistent format across product types.

For greater ease of use, EPA has reformatted the ENERGY STAR Product Specifications to more clearly and consistently delineate the test method from the performance requirements. This reformatting does not involve any substantive change to the test methods and should not necessitate any retesting of products or the re-accreditation of any lab previously accredited to a specific ENERGY STAR test method.

In cases where EPA and stakeholders are currently or will imminently be engaged in specification revisions, EPA is incorporating the proposed refinements described above into the specification revision process. Revised draft Product Specifications will be posted to www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment, as developed by EPA. EPA is proposing revisions to the Partner Commitments for these products now to provide partners with additional review time. This approach applies to Set-top Boxes (STB), Furnaces, Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Decorative Light Strings, Integral LED Lamps, Residential Light Fixtures, and Solid State Lighting Luminaires. EPA has proposed revisions to the Partner Commitments only for Windows, Doors and Skylights as well.

In addition, EPA has not proposed refinements to the Product Specifications for Digital to Analog Converter Boxes (DTA), External Power Supplies (EPS), and End Use Products that use an External Power Supply as these products have been proposed or determined for sunseting (i.e., to suspend specification and labeling) by the close of 2010.

Proposed Substantive Clarifications to ENERGY STAR Product Specifications

In a limited number of cases, EPA has taken this opportunity to address stakeholder questions or concerns and has proposed modest changes to Product Specifications.

Summary of Proposed Noteworthy Product-specific Clarifications

Product Type	Clarification
Computers	- Proposed credit structure for products with proxying capability. - Explanation of proper application of internal

	<p>power supply power factor and hard drive requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to move Game Console Requirements into a Stand-alone Specification.
TVs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalized use of CEA test procedure for Download Acquisition Mode. - Proposed approach for Power Overhang.
Window, Doors, Skylights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Included clarifying language that Sash Replacement Kits (sash packs) are not eligible for ENERGY STAR.
Central Air Conditioners and Air-Source Heat Pumps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Required approval from DOE for the Alternate Rating Method (ARM) tool used for simulated ratings.
Audio/Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Included clarifying language regarding proper interpretation of Auto Power Down (APD) definition.

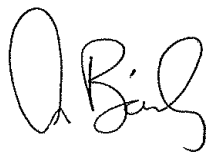
Rather than distribute revised Partner Commitments and Product Specifications for all affected product categories to all stakeholders, EPA has made these documents, with proposed changes highlighted, available at www.energystar.gov/testingandverification.

EPA welcomes comments on these documents. Please send your comments to ENERGYSTARVerificationProgram@energystar.gov by October 1, 2010. EPA will consider all comments carefully and distribute final Partner Commitments and Product Specifications by mid-October, 2010. Once the documents are finalized, Partners will be asked to complete a few simple steps to confirm their company's intent to continue partnership with EPA consistent with the revised Partner Commitments.

EPA appreciates your partnership and looks forward to continuing to work with your organization as we enhance the integrity of the program and ensure that the ENERGY STAR continues to be a mark that consumers seek and trust to deliver savings.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Ann Bailey, Chief
ENERGY STAR Labeling Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency