

EPA ENERGY STAR® FAQ – Third-Party Certification

1. **Q: With regard to the Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Displays specification, how must Sleep and Off Mode power be calculated for products powered by a low-voltage dc source?**
 A : The calculation of Sleep and Off Mode power for products powered by a low-voltage dc source must follow the method of calculating *On Mode* power for such products. Hence:

$$P_{\text{SLEEP}} = P_L - P_S$$

$$P_{\text{OFF}} = P_L - P_S$$
 Where:
 P_{SLEEP} is the calculated Sleep Mode power, in watts,
 P_{OFF} is the calculated Off Mode power, in watts
 P_L is the ac power consumption, in watts, of the low-voltage dc source with the unit under test (UUT) as the load, and
 P_S is the marginal loss of the ac power supply of the source, in watts.

2. **Q: When should a certification body (CB) notify the manufacturer and withdraw certification for a lighting model or subcomponent that fails lifetime/full qualification testing?**
 A : The ENERGY STAR lighting specifications for Compact Fluorescent Lamps, Integral LED Lamps and Luminaires (the requirements for shipped lamps) allow for initial (conditional) qualification based on the completion of minimum lumen maintenance or lifetime testing requirements. This provision requires that lifetime testing be completed and met for full qualification. In all instances where subsequent to an initial product qualification, if a certification body (CB) receives lifetime testing results indicating that the product has failed to meet its rated lifetime (as indicated on product packaging), the CB is required within 2 business days to report this information as a lifetime product testing failure by submitting a [failure report form](#) to Enforcement@energystar.gov per the [Standard Operating Procedure for Certification of Products to ENERGY STAR Specifications](#). The CB may notify the manufacturer and **must withdraw certification immediately**.

3. **Q: Do the ENERGY STAR verification testing requirements apply to models that are no longer certified as ENERGY STAR?**
 A : Models that are certified as ENERGY STAR at the time of product selection for verification testing are subject to EPA's verification testing requirements and should be reported to EPA per [Directive 2011-06: ENERGY STAR Verification Testing Supplement: Selecting Products, Obtaining Products, and Reporting Results](#). Verification testing on any model that EPA disqualifies from ENERGY STAR subsequent to test initiation may be discontinued; delisted products are required to continue testing. Note that all models that fail verification testing will be subject to EPA's [disqualification procedures](#), irrespective of certification status.

4. **Q: Who makes a determination of a defective unit for purposes of ENERGY STAR verification testing on non-lighting products?**
 A : EPA is responsible for reviewing and making determinations regarding defect claims. If a laboratory finds that a unit is inoperative or does not operate according to the manufacturer's design and operating instructions when conducting verification testing, the issue must be reported to the certification body (CB) and to EPA via enforcement@energystar.gov for resolution. EPA will then provide further direction regarding testing requirements. In most cases, EPA will not permit repairs or modifications to units after procurement.

5. **Q: What results when a test report for ENERGY STAR contains a typographical error?**
 A : The certification body (CB) may permit correction of typographical errors in laboratory reports where no testing error (as described in [this related FAQ](#)) has occurred. In all instances, typographical corrections must be clearly noted and recorded on file.

6. **Q: Can a certification body (CB) enroll a laboratory in its witnessed or supervised manufacturer's testing laboratory (W/SMTL) program on the basis of supervision or auditing that another CB has performed of that laboratory?**
 A : No, a certification body (CB) may not enroll a laboratory in its witnessed or supervised manufacturer's testing laboratory (W/SMTL) program on the basis of supervision or auditing that another CB has performed of that laboratory. The CB must conduct its own assessment of the laboratory seeking

enrollment. Only after the CB determines the laboratory meets the requirements of its W/SMTL program may the CB enroll the laboratory in its W/SMTL program.

- 7. Q: Can a certification body (CB) accept test data from a laboratory that is participating in another CB's witnessed or supervised manufacturer's testing laboratory (W/SMTL) program?**

A : No. A certification body (CB) may accept data only from a laboratory that participates in its witnessed or supervised manufacturer's testing laboratory (W/SMTL) program.
- 8. Q: What happens to disqualified products and their model numbers?**

A : As per EPA's [disqualification procedures](#), models that EPA disqualifies are posted by brand name and model number on [EPA's list of disqualified models](#). To avoid causing consumer confusion, the partner responsible for the disqualified model may not reuse or reference that product's disqualified model number for any future qualification, regardless of product family classification or product redesign.
- 9. Q: What time restrictions apply to procurement of units for verification testing using the 4-unit multiple-sample approach?**

A : For verification testing of non-lighting products, all four units of a model selected for testing must be procured at one time, per [Directive 2011-04](#). In cases of non-lighting units that are selected from a manufacturer's warehouse, the units identified to supplement a spot check failure may be considered procured when they are tagged with tamper-proof packaging in the warehouse or other storage facility, provided that those units can be made available for testing at the verification testing laboratory within five business days after completion of the initial spot check.
- 10. Q: When may a certification body (CB) notify a manufacturer of a verification or challenge testing failure?**

A : A CB may notify a manufacturer of a testing failure only upon or after notifying EPA of the failure. CBs are required to report testing failures to EPA within 2 business days of determining the failure. (See [Directive 2011-04](#), [Directive 2011-06](#) and [Directive 2012-01](#) regarding determination of a testing failure.)
- 11. Q: What are the responsibilities of a certification body (CB) that is not able to carry out verification testing on the standard timeline due to an unresponsive or uncooperative ENERGY STAR manufacturing partner?**

A : Certification bodies (CBs) are required to immediately report to EPA via certification@energystar.gov any delays in verification testing due to unresponsive or uncooperative manufacturing partners. EPA will work directly with the manufacturing partner and provide further guidance for the CB.
- 12. Q: Will test reports produced by a lab prior to receiving EPA recognition be accepted for ENERGY STAR certification?**

A : If testing was conducted prior to EPA recognition, certification bodies (CBs) will determine whether the data is acceptable based on factors such as when the laboratory received accreditation and whether the laboratory was required to make changes that would invalidate previously conducted tests. CBs should ensure that the laboratory meets all of the applicable laboratory test report requirements as outlined in the [Standard Operating Procedure for Certification of Products to ENERGY STAR Specifications](#).
- 13. Q: Can I just test my product in an EPA - recognized laboratory and send the result to a certification body (CB)?**

A : No, manufacturers must confirm with an EPA - recognized certification body (CB) which laboratories are appropriate for conducting testing depending on the product type and the specific nature of the CB's Program. CBs or manufacturers that encounter any problems or concerns with any EPA-recognized laboratory should report these issues directly to EPA by contacting Certification@energystar.gov.
- 14. Q: Are certification bodies (CBs) required by ISO Guide 65 to certify every product attribute identified in ENERGY STAR specifications?**

A : EPA is solely responsible for identifying the criteria that products must be certified against to earn the ENERGY STAR label. CBs are not required to certify every attribute that is included in the specification. Some product specifications include attributes that are not required to be tested for or

reviewed by CBs. In those cases, EPA provides clear direction to CBs which attributes should be certified and which should not. This direction is included in the specification itself or in other product-specific documentation. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), an accreditation body that assesses CBs, provided EPA a letter clarifying that ISO Guide 65 allows the Agency to define relevant product criteria and pass this direction on to CBs. That letter can be found [here](#).

15. **Q: Who is considered the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) for roofing products made of a coating applied to a metal roof panel?**
 A : For roofing products, certification bodies (CBs) should report the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) as the coating manufacturer for metal roof panels, even for private labels (rebranders) of the metal roof panel.
16. **Q: Are ENERGY STAR performance criteria subject to verification testing when they are specified for reporting purposes only?**
 A : No. Since there are no defined performance levels for reported only criteria, verification testing does not apply. However, all performance criteria, except where specified, must be third-party certified.
17. **Q: At which voltage should I test products for verification testing?**
 A : Since verification testing is only for products currently available for sale in the United States (U.S.), testing should be conducted at U.S. voltages. For initial qualification, products should be tested at the relevant input voltage/frequency for each market country in which it will be sold and promoted as ENERGY STAR. If, however, an applicable U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) test procedure or test procedure waiver specifies a testing voltage, the verification and U.S. qualification tests should both be performed per the DOE test procedure's or waiver's requirements.
18. **Q: Does EPA have data reporting requirements for laboratories testing products for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification or verification testing?**
 A : The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has general laboratory test reporting requirements for EPA-recognized laboratories as outlined in [the Standard Operating Procedure for Certification of Products to ENERGY STAR Specifications](#). In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has developed [test templates](#) for DOE-initiated testing. EPA-recognized laboratories are not required to use these templates for ENERGY STAR qualification testing, but are permitted to use them, so long as the laboratories also report all the required fields for EPA. Third-party laboratories conducting verification testing contracted by DOE are required to use these templates.
19. **Q: Are refrigerator-freezers with a bottom freezer and through-the-door ice eligible for ENERGY STAR qualification?**
 A : Yes; this type of refrigerator-freezer is eligible for ENERGY STAR qualification under the [ENERGY STAR Residential Refrigerators and Freezers V4.1 specification](#). The V4.1 specification references 18 product classes established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for purposes of federal energy conservation standards. At the time these product classes were established, bottom-freezers with through-the-door ice were not available on the market and therefore, this product type is not listed in the specification. DOE's Office of Hearings and Appeals has granted a number of exceptions to manufacturers for refrigerator-freezer products with bottom freezers and through-the-door ice (future DOE product class 5a[†]), specifying the energy standard equation for maximum energy use (kWh/year) as: $5.0 \cdot AV + 539.0$.
- For ENERGY STAR qualification, these products must use 20% less energy than the federal energy conservation standard, consistent with V4.1 requirements for all refrigerator-freezers.
- For ENERGY STAR qualification, certification bodies (CBs) should ensure that the unit has obtained the necessary exception from DOE and that the unit's annual energy use is less than or equal to: $4.00 \cdot AV + 431.2$.
- [†]DOE's future product class 5a comes into effect with the amended energy conservation standards. Manufacturers must comply with these requirements beginning September 15, 2014.
20. **Q: I have a document about verification testing for an ENERGY STAR product category, but it is dated 2009 or earlier. Is it still applicable to the current verification testing under third-party certification?**

A : No, verification testing conducted in previous years is different than the current verification testing scheme, which went into effect January 1, 2011. Verification testing documents dated from 2002-2009 are no longer applicable. Information about the current verification testing process under third-party certification can be found at www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert.

21. Q: **How long will it take the certification body (CB) to review a test report?**

A : EPA anticipates this will differ between product categories and certification bodies (CBs). As part of its application, a CB is required to provide EPA with a detailed description of its review process in order to allow EPA to estimate its potential impact on partners' product introduction cycles. EPA is working with CBs to ensure that certification occurs within a timeframe that adequately addresses partners' concerns regarding product development cycles, and time - to - market.

22. Q: **How does EPA recognition of accreditation bodies (ABs), laboratories, or certification bodies (CBs) work?**

A : The requirements that each organization must meet in order to gain recognition are available at www.energystar.gov/testingandverification.

23. Q: **Where can I find a list of EPA - recognized accreditation bodies (ABs), laboratories, or certification bodies (CBs)?**

A : [EPA-recognized accreditation bodies \(ABs\)](#).
[EPA-recognized certification bodies \(CBs\) and laboratories \(non-lighting product categories\)](#).
[EPA-recognized certification bodies \(CBs\) and laboratories \(lighting product categories\)](#).
 EPA continues to process applications for recognition, and updates these lists on an ongoing basis.

24. Q: **Will products I qualified prior to January 1, 2011 have to be retested after the effective date in order to remain qualified?**

A : **For products with specifications that will change in 2011 or early 2012**

Partners do not need to take any action to maintain the ENERGY STAR qualification status of previously-qualified models until the revised specification takes effect. **When the revised specification becomes effective, EPA will remove all previously-qualified products from the ENERGY STAR Qualified Product (QP) list.** Partners must ensure all products, including those previously qualified, are third-party certified through an EPA-recognized Certification Body (CB). These certified results will be the source of the new QP list.

Products Not Slated to Undergo Specification Revisions Prior to Early 2012

For a small number of product categories, EPA is not anticipating near-term specification changes. For those product categories, **EPA will require that manufacturers enroll their products with an [EPA-recognized CB](#) by March 31, 2011 in order to subject them to possible verification testing.** These product categories are:

- Commercial Steam Cookers
- Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers
- Commercial Griddles (Gas)
- Central Air Conditioners & Air Source Heat Pumps
- Geothermal Heat Pumps (Water-to-Water)
- Light Commercial HVAC
- Roof Products
- Room Air Cleaners

The information partners will need to submit to their CB to keep these products qualified includes (but is not limited to):

- A list of models submitted to EPA for qualification prior to January 1, 2011 that they wish to maintain as ENERGY STAR qualified (and therefore subject to verification testing.) (Please note, only products currently sold in the U.S. or a [partner market](#) are eligible to remain qualified.)
- Any additional information a partner's CB may require (this will be similar but not necessarily limited to the information submitted upon submission of the original product qualification package).

Partners must provide this information to their CB no later than March 31, 2011. **Any models not registered by that date will be removed from the ENERGY STAR Qualified Products lists beginning with the April 15 update, and continued labeling of those products will be considered a logo violation.**

25. Q: How long does it take to test and certify a product?

A : Actual testing time depends on the test methods used. For many products, it may be completed in as little as one day, while for those with lifetime tests, such as performance testing for lighting products or solar maintenance testing for roof products, testing may take from several months to three years.

Product certification depends on the certification body review time. It may be completed in as little as two or three days if the certification body (CB) has all of the information it needs from the manufacturer, but usually, it takes about two weeks.

For more information, please feel free to contact an appropriate [EPA-recognized laboratory or CB](#).

26. Q: As a manufacturing partner, when will my recently qualified product appear on the ENERGY STAR website?

A : Newly qualified products will appear on the ENERGY STAR website upon the next update of the corresponding qualified product list (QPL). QPLs are currently updated at the beginning and middle of each month. If your product is certified and submitted to EPA at the end of the month, it will appear at the beginning of the subsequent month. Also note that products will not appear until the date they are available on the market.

27. Q: Can laboratories receive EPA-recognition to test products under the Luminaires V1.1 specification as well as be recognized to test luminaire subcomponents? If so, can laboratories use the same application, or would separate applications be needed?

A : Laboratories accredited by an EPA-recognized accreditation body to ISO 17025 can apply for EPA-recognition to test products under the Luminaires specification and associated subcomponents using the same application, provided the appropriate test methods are included in the scope of accreditation. A further discussion of the requirements to obtain EPA-recognition to test lighting products under the ENERGY STAR program can be found in the [Guide to Laboratory Recognition by Lighting Category](#).

28. Q: Must a product be retested and certified under a revised specification if it already exceeds the required minimum energy efficiency requirements?

A : When a specification is revised, manufacturers will need to have existing models certified to the new specification, however, certification bodies (CBs) may accept existing test data, so long as the testing requirements have not changed and the test data is from an EPA-recognized lab. To avoid the costs and administrative burdens associated with retesting and certification, EPA encourages manufacturers to certify products to the highest specification version possible, and to work with CBs to determine if additional testing will be needed. A complete list of EPA-recognized CBs can be found [here](#).

29. Q: Once a product is certified, does it still need to be reviewed by EPA before it is labeled?

A : No, EPA authorizes use of the ENERGY STAR mark to partners for products that meet all of the ENERGY STAR requirements, including certification by an EPA - recognized certification body (CB).

30. Q: What constitutes a product failure under verification testing?

A : ENERGY STAR products will be considered as failing under verification testing if they exceed the ENERGY STAR requirements outlined in the ENERGY STAR specifications. Partners should consult DOE for questions regarding DOE minimum efficiency requirements.

31. Q: How should room air cleaners be sampled for verification testing?

A : All room air cleaners are understood to have been qualified based on a single test, so verification should also be based on a single test. A single unit should be tested as described in the current ENERGY STAR specification and all referenced test methods. However, for either qualification or verification testing, manufacturers have the option, as specified in the specification, of testing the unit once or testing three times with different filters and averaging the result.

32. Q: Can I use a first - party laboratory for verification testing?

A : Only in some rare cases where off - the - line testing is the only feasible option will verification

testing be allowed in a first - party laboratory. If the unit selected for verification is obtained off - the - line from the manufacturing facility, the verification testing may be performed at an EPA - recognized, first - party laboratory provided that qualified CB personnel witness the test. EPA anticipates that off - the - line testing will only be an option for extremely large, expensive, or custom - built products.

33. Q: As a manufacturing partner, can I use multiple certification bodies (CBs) to certify different models within the same product category?

A : While partners should use one CB per product category, EPA recognizes that there may be some cases where the use of multiple CBs for a single product category is warranted. For example, if a partner has a private labeled product where the original product was already certified by a CB, EPA understands that the partner of the private labeled product cannot or simply may not want to use that same CB when certifying the product under its company name. There may also be cases where a number of models must be certified within certain time constraints that would not be met if only a single CB were used. As there may be several other examples of why partners may want to use different CBs for the same product category, EPA has allowed for some flexibility built into the requirements. However, it is still highly recommended that partners use only one CB per product category whenever possible.

34. Q: When did the ENERGY STAR Third - Party Certification requirements go into effect?

A : January 1, 2011.

35. Q: If a certification body determines that a product does not meet ENERGY STAR requirements and denies certification, is the manufacturer allowed to pursue certification with a different certification body?

A : If a certification body determines that a product submitted for certification does not meet ENERGY STAR requirements, it reports to EPA the product's details and the reason(s) why it does not meet ENERGY STAR requirements. EPA maintains a list of all such products, and the reasons why they are ineligible for ENERGY STAR certification, and provides certification bodies with access to this list. Certification bodies must consult this list prior to certifying products.

36. Q: Who may fill out EPA's certified product data submission forms?

A : Only certification bodies may fill out forms for submitting data to EPA.

37. Q: Is a manufacturer or private labeler required to use only one certification body?

A : EPA does not require a manufacturer or private labeler to use only one certification body. However, EPA does encourage private labelers to use the same certification body as the original qualified product to reduce the amount of review and paperwork needed to qualify a private labeled product. If the manufacturer/private labeler uses a different certification body for the qualification of a privately labeled product, it is possible that product could be selected for verification testing in the same year by the two different certification bodies. EPA has no mechanism for tracking this information, and will rely on the original equipment manufacturer and private labeler to identify such occurrences.

38. Q: Must a first party accredited laboratory that has applied for and been granted EPA recognition enroll as a supervised manufacturer's testing laboratory (SMTL) with an EPA-recognized Certification Body?

A : No. As part of its status as a laboratory accredited by an EPA-recognized Accreditation Body, an EPA-recognized accredited first-party laboratory that has been formally recognized by the Agency by application does not have to have its tests supervised or witnessed by an EPA-recognized Certification Body. However, the CB may enroll such a laboratory as an SMTL if it so chooses.

39. Q: My laboratory tests External Power Supplies that are intended for ENERGY STAR qualification. Why is this product category not included in EPA's laboratory recognition application form?

A : The ENERGY STAR External Power Supplies, Digital - to - Analog Converter Boxes, and End - Use Products (with qualified External Power Supplies) programs will be sunset at the end of calendar year 2010.

40. Q: Who will fund the new third - party certification requirements?

A : The new testing and verification procedures will be partner - funded. Partners will pay laboratories and CBs directly.

- 41. Q: How many of my products will be subject to ongoing verification testing, and how often will this occur?**
- A : CBs are responsible for annually selecting at least 10% of the products that they have certified for verification testing. At least half of these products will be selected randomly. As such, the number of an individual Partner's products that are subject to verification testing in a given year will vary. CBs also have discretion to determine when products will be selected, so the testing may take place on a quarterly, bi - annual, or annual schedule depending on the CB and product category.
- 42. Q: Will EPA continue to provide international recognition of products for ENERGY STAR?**
- A : EPA supports ongoing mutual recognition internationally. However, all products entering the US must meet EPA's third - party certification requirements effective January 1, 2011.
- 43. Q: When may I begin to market my product as ENERGY STAR qualified?**
- A : Partners may begin to market products as ENERGY STAR qualified as soon as they receive written notice from their CB that the product meets the ENERGY STAR specification. The only exception to this is the *first* product that a prospective Partner qualifies. In this case, EPA will need to complete the partner application process and provide the new ENERGY STAR partner with the label and ENERGY STAR Identity Guidelines to market its product as ENERGY STAR qualified.
- 44. Q: Must I use an accredited laboratory?**
- A : Yes, you are required to have products tested for ENERGY STAR in a laboratory that is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the relevant test procedures. EPA has made an exception for first - party laboratories to conduct testing if they are enrolled in an EPA - recognized CB's supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing laboratory (SMTL/WMTL) program, which includes demonstrating compliance with ISO 17025 as described in Appendix A of the [Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Certification Bodies for the ENERGY STAR Program](#).
- 45. Q: How do ENERGY STAR partners qualify products under the third - party certification requirements?**
- A : ENERGY STAR partners had historically been able to test their products in any laboratory of their choice, and submit product data directly to EPA for review pursuant to qualification. Under the new requirements, which were effective January 1, 2011, partners are required to have their products certified by an EPA - recognized Certification Body (CB) of their choice. Upon certification of a product, the CB will notify the partner that the product meets the ENERGY STAR requirements and will submit the qualified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. See a [flowchart describing the details of the new procedure](#).
- 46. Q: Will EPA send someone to evaluate my laboratory during the recognition process?**
- A : No, EPA will not conduct a site visit. Instead, if you are seeking accreditation, staff from an EPA - recognized AB will conduct a site visit. If you are seeking enrollment in an EPA - recognized CB's supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing laboratory (SMTL/WMTL) program, staff from that CB will conduct a site visit.
- 47. Q: What happens when a product that fails verification testing is related to another product via private labeling or product family? For example, if a qualified GU24 lamp fails verification testing, how does this impact qualified light fixtures that use that lamp?**
- A : EPA disqualifies products related to the failed product where product qualification and performance expectations of the two products are based on the same key components. This ensures that all ENERGY STAR labeled products are delivering the expected performance and energy savings to consumers.
- 48. Q: How much does it cost to get a product third-party certified for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification?**
- A : EPA does not dictate how or what a recognized certification body (CB) charges for the services they provide. ENERGY STAR manufacturing partners are encouraged to consult more than one CB, as prices vary and a range of options are offered. Three common approaches are:
- Per-model charge;
 - Per-model charge plus an annual administrative fee;
 - One set annual fee for a product category, with no per-model charge.

Note that costs for testing and certification vary widely by product category. In addition, some CBs also offer combined testing and certification services. Contact certification bodies directly for more specific information.

[Search EPA-recognized certification bodies \(CBs\)](#)

49. Q: [Can I use the same organization to both conduct testing and certify my product as ENERGY STAR qualified?](#)

A : Yes. In order to qualify your product as ENERGY STAR, you must use an EPA-recognized laboratory to conduct testing in accordance with the applicable product specification, as well as, have an EPA-recognized certification body (CB) certify that the product is ENERGY STAR qualified. If an organization has received EPA-recognition as a laboratory and a CB for the same product category for which you manufacture products, you may use that organization for both testing and certification.

50. Q: [How do I qualify "privately labeled" products? \(If my company's product is the same as another company's product except for the brand name, must I work with a Certification Body to qualify my product for ENERGY STAR?\)](#)

A : You must work with an EPA-recognized Certification Body (CB) to certify or register your product if any of the following conditions are true:

Neither product is currently qualified for ENERGY STAR.

The other company's product is currently qualified and was certified by a CB.

Your product is one of the following:

- Roof Products
- Light Commercial HVAC
- Central Air Conditioners & Air Source Heat Pumps
- Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers
- Room Air Cleaners
- Geothermal Heat Pumps (Water-to-Water)
- Commercial Griddles (Gas)
- Commercial Steam Cookers

Your product is not on the above list, but has experienced a revision of its ENERGY STAR specification that became effective in 2011 or the first part of 2012.

If your product does not meet any of the conditions in the above list, EPA will process the new qualification directly as an administrative change. Please complete a qualified product information form or OPS submittal, and include a lab report, lab report cover sheet, and letter of equivalency to declare your model is identical to a previously-qualified model with exception of the brand name.

51. Q: [How can an ENERGY STAR manufacturing partner add new models to previously-qualified product families after 1/1/11?](#)

A : Consistent with product family definitions in the relevant specifications, manufacturers may add models to families previously qualified by EPA without additional testing. Partners should follow their current procedure (i.e., submit through OPS or product specific web addresses) for submitting additional members of an existing qualified family for review.

Product categories that allowed for product family qualification prior to January 1, 2011 include:

- Audio/Video Products
- Residential Ceiling Fans
- Commercial Hot Food Holding Cabinets
- Commercial Ovens
- Commercial Steam Cookers
- Computers
- Displays
- Integral LED Lamps
- Imaging Equipment
- Residential Dishwashers
- Residential Refrigerators and Freezers
- Computer Servers

- Solid-State Lighting Luminaires
- Residential Ventilating Fans
- Residential Water Heaters

For all other product categories, any third-party certified product families, manufacturers must work with an EPA-recognized Certification Body to add new models to previously-qualified product families.

52. Q: If my company's product is the same as another company's product except for the brand name (for example, product X is a private labeled version of product Y, an OEM product), and product Y undergoes qualification, verification, or challenge testing, or a design change, then can product X be qualified, recertified, or decertified based on product Y's test results?

A : Yes. If both companies have submitted the product in question for certification through the same CB, and the CB agrees to recognize the two products as identical, then with the CB's consent a single report can fulfill the testing requirements for the products represented by that report.

53. Q: Do partners need to provide updates to products if they still meet the ENERGY STAR requirements?

A : Beginning January 1, 2011, partners must notify the CB of changes to their certified products that impact the product's energy performance even if the product still meets the ENERGY STAR requirements. The CB will determine if additional test data is required.