

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

March 14, 2008

Dear Set-top Box Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to forward the Final Draft ENERGY STAR set-top box (STB) specifications for your review. On behalf of EPA, I would like to thank stakeholders for reviewing and providing comments on the Draft 3 ENERGY STAR STB specifications, distributed on January 14, 2008, and subsequent proposals. All stakeholder comments submitted to EPA on the previous Draft 3 versions and subsequent proposals were reviewed and taken into consideration while preparing these Final Draft documents. These comments, with EPA responses, are summarized as an attachment to this letter.

Provided below is a list of the key changes reflected in the attached Final Draft STB specifications. Note boxes are included throughout the draft specifications to clarify EPA's reasoning for making the reflected changes. In summary, in the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Cable, Satellite, and Telecom Service Providers, EPA has:

- Changed the purchase and deployment requirement to a requirement that specifies the percent of new purchases OR active fleet that must meet ENERGY STAR criteria.
- Provided additional guidance on how products employing auto power down must perform under the specification.
- Removed the requirement that the ENERGY STAR mark must appear at auto power down and resumption from Sleep, if service provider chooses electronic labeling. Instead, EPA proposed in the Final Draft that service providers employ an electronic labeling scheme that achieves an average of one impression per day.
- Added Eligibility Criteria that repeat the definitions from the technical specification for reference, and provide additional information on qualifying and testing products and effective dates.
- Included requirements for determining and testing a representative sample of products.
- Outlined reporting requirements tied to each of the Purchase and Fleet requirements.

EPA has made the following changes to the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Set-top Boxes:

- Removed the requirement that the ENERGY STAR mark must appear at auto power down and resumption from Sleep, if service provider chooses electronic labeling. Instead, EPA proposed in the Final Draft that service providers employ an electronic labeling scheme that achieves an average of one impression per day.
- Made use of the term Multi-Room, rather than Gateway, and clarified the definition of a Multi-Room STB.
- Added a definition for Home Network Interface.
- Moved definition for Out-of-Band Tuners out of the Additional Functionalities section to avoid confusion.
- Added additional functionality allowances for DOCSIS and Home Network Interfaces.

- Clarified that refurbished (“legacy”) boxes that can meet the energy-efficiency performance requirements in the ENERGY STAR STB specification do not need to use an ENERGY STAR qualified (or equivalent) EPS.
- Explained that units that can support a second TV without the need for a thin client can receive half of the relevant thin client adder.
- Required that devices that provide for speculative recording have an easy to reach menu option allowing for disabling of this feature.
- Included requirements for determining and testing a representative sample of products.
- Removed the duty cycle for additional tuners in Table 3, as they are adequately addressed in the test procedure.
- Provided additional guidance on how products employing auto power down must perform under the specification.

Also included for your review is a draft data collection form for the regular reporting of qualified product information by manufacturers. Draft data collection forms for the annual reporting of unit shipment data by manufacturers, and purchase and fleet data by service providers will be distributed shortly for your review. Although EPA will not finalize these data collection forms until after the final specifications are released, it is hoped that these draft forms will provide you with an idea of the type of information EPA intends to collect. Early review of these forms was requested by stakeholders at the February 1, 2008 stakeholder meeting.

Stakeholders are requested to **provide comments on these Final Draft specifications no later than April 4, 2008. Please send comments via e-mail to Darcy Martinez, ICF International, at [dmartinez@icfi.com](mailto:dmartinez@icfi.com).** EPA intends to distribute the Final ENERGY STAR STB specifications to stakeholders on April 18, 2008.

The exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR STB specifications and to review comments, please visit the Product Development Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) and click on “Revisions to Existing Specifications.”

Thank you for taking the time to review these Final Draft specifications. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at (202) 343-9120 or via e-mail at [kaplan.katharine@epa.gov](mailto:kaplan.katharine@epa.gov).

Best Regards,



Katharine Kaplan, EPA Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:

- Final Draft Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Cable, Satellite, and Telecom Service Providers
- Final Draft Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Set-top Boxes
- Summary of Comments on the Draft 3 ENERGY STAR STB Specifications and Subsequent Proposals with EPA Responses
- ENERGY STAR Set-top Box Test Procedure
- Draft ENERGY STAR Qualified Product Information Form for Set-top Boxes
- ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement