



Information to Facilitate Discussion of How to Best Address TVs with Public Alert Under the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR® TV Products Specification

Public Alert Background

- CEA defines Public Alert as: a consumer electronics product providing direct access to government emergency information 24-hours-a-day, with the ability to automatically prompt users with various types of audio and visual cues. The products are sophisticated enough to recognize specific alerts for specific geographic regions, while monitoring emergency conditions at the state and national levels. All CEA-2009 certified Public Alert devices meet the CEA standard for compatibility and certification, and receive free public broadcasts from NOAA Weather Radio network and Environment Canada's Meteorological Service of Canada Weatheradio network. (http://www.ce.org/shared_files/resources/124PA_White_Paper.pdf)
- Based on an early Draft of CEA-2009, which all products must meet in order to be certified as having Public Alert capability, devices that implement the functionality and that include an option for the user to turn this functionality on or off, must have "ALERT ENABLED" (i.e., functionality turned on) as the default mode, and must be shipped from the factory in this mode.
- Based on anecdotal feedback provided from one stakeholder in May 2003, TV models that incorporate Public Alert constantly use between 8 – 10 watts when no picture is playing but the TV is still picking up a signal, in order to turn on and broadcast emergency messaging when necessary.

Questions for Industry

- Which manufacturers produce TVs with Public Alert, and what percentage of their product-offering incorporates this feature?
- Can manufacturers share data on the estimated power consumption of TVs with Public Alert when the TV is not in On Mode, but has Public Alert enabled?
- How do stakeholders propose testing their product with Public Alert activated?

Proposal for TVs with Public Alert

The Draft 2 Version 3.0 specification includes the following as a definition for *Standby Level*:

- The lowest power consumption mode which cannot be switched off (influenced) by the user and that may persist for an indefinite time when the appliance is connected to the main electricity supply and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For purposes of this specification, Standby Mode is defined as the time when the product is connected to a power source, produces neither sound nor picture, neither transmits nor receives program information and/or data (excluding data transmitted to change the unit's condition from Standby Mode to On Mode), and is waiting to be switched to On Mode by a direct or indirect signal from the consumer, e.g., with the remote control. A TV which does not have a mode meeting this description cannot qualify for ENERGY STAR.

EPA proposes that TVs that incorporate Public Alert do not have a standby level as they are always receiving data, therefore they are ineligible to qualify as ENERGY STAR. As such, EPA is currently considering stating in the Version 3.0 TV products specification that TVs with Public Alert are not covered under the ENERGY STAR specification. What feedback do stakeholders wish to offer regarding this proposal? Additionally, are there other types of features/functions that would preclude TVs from having a Standby Level, thereby eliminating their ability to qualify under the proposed specification?