



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 21, 2005

Dear ENERGY STAR® TV/VCR Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is beginning its process to revise the current ENERGY STAR specification for televisions, television combination units and VCRs (TV/VCR products specification). EPA will follow the standard ENERGY STAR specification revision process when developing the Version 3.0 specification, working closely with all interested stakeholders to ensure that the new requirements effectively recognize the top performing models in the marketplace in terms of energy efficiency without sacrificing product performance. **For future updates, please visit www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment (select 'Revisions to Existing Product Specifications' on the right-side tool bar and then select 'TV/VCR specification').**

Rationale for Revising Current ENERGY STAR Specification for TV/VCR Products

The current ENERGY STAR specification's focus on standby power does not reflect energy used by a product when it is operating. Active power consumption is becoming increasingly important due to changes in product technology and usage patterns that result in increased energy consumption. Such changes include:

- The advent of new display technologies, some of which *may* use significantly more energy than their traditional counterparts;
- The trend towards larger screen sizes;
- The marketing of televisions as part of "home theater packages," which may be used in conjunction with a variety of audio and video devices, increasing overall system energy consumption;
- The burgeoning availability of new cable and satellite programming and DVD content, leading to increased television viewing; and,
- The growth in sales of game consoles, which also leads to an increase in the number of hours a typical television operates each day.

Key Steps in the ENERGY STAR Specification Revision Process

The specification revision process will follow a number of key steps including, but not limited to, completing market research, developing a test procedure, working with industry to gather power

consumption data based on the test procedure, determining a performance metric for televisions, and then determining appropriate power consumption levels for the products. More specifically, these steps include:

- **Step 1: Draft a brief market research summary report on the current state of the television market**, focused on the trends affecting sales and power consumption of products that have led to EPA's decision to revise this specification. EPA will contact stakeholders to ask for their input on this research report during its development as well as after the Agency has prepared a draft.
- **Step 2: Develop a new test procedure to measure the amount of energy being consumed by a television when it is 'active', or in 'on' mode.** This test procedure needs to: take into account variables such as what programming is displayed and its format; measure all televisions in the same manner, regardless of technology; and, ideally receive wide acceptance by industry and government entities. Development of the test procedure will build on discussions started at the 2005 international workshop entitled "Measuring and Reducing Television Energy Use." Please see www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment (select 'Revisions to Existing Product Specifications' on the right-side tool bar and then select 'TV/VCR specification') for further information about the workshop. EPA expects to work with the international community on the development of this test procedure.
- **Step 3: With industry, gather and analyze data** to determine energy consumption levels, a suitable performance metric for televisions, possible ENERGY STAR specification frameworks, and other criteria.

Additional Topic of Interest

EPA is considering the development of a separate specification for 'boxes' or peripheral devices for televisions as an increasing number of these products are being sold and a proliferation of different types of 'boxes' are becoming available in the marketplace. Examples of these types of peripheral devices include, but are not limited to, DVD players, DVRs, cable boxes, satellite receivers, and VCRs. EPA will complete further research and communication with stakeholders prior to any decisions being made on the approach for this potential new ENERGY STAR specification.

How You Can Get Involved and Timing

As EPA moves forward with revising the current TV/VCR products specification, we will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via e-mail updates and industry meetings. EPA and ENERGY STAR international country partner representatives will be attending an international standby power conference in Seoul, Korea, November 2 – 4, 2005. Televisions and set-top boxes will be discussed in a meeting prior to the start of the conference, on Monday, October 31st, 2005. If you are interested in receiving more information about this meeting as the details are finalized, please contact Mehernaz Polad,

ICF Consulting, at mpolad@icfconsulting.com. EPA also expects to share a Draft of its brief market summary this fall or early winter, and will be available to discuss this with manufacturers during the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, NV on Friday, January 6th and Saturday, January 7th, 2006.

Stakeholder participation is critical to developing a meaningful specification and to the overall success of ENERGY STAR. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. In addition, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9019 or fanara.andrew@epa.gov with any questions or comments. The current TV/VCR products specification will remain in place until a new set of specifications can be finalized with a new effective date.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fanara', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara

US EPA

ENERGY STAR Product Development Team Leader