

Proposed Edits to Section 4.E.2.d. Testing at Factory Settings in Draft 2 of the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR® TV Products Specification

Intent and Background

EPA recognizes that many manufacturers ship products in a retail or brighter setting so that all models that are destined for a retail showroom present the brightest picture. EPA would like to create an incentive for manufacturers to ship in a lower power setting and one that, we are told, is more desirable for home settings, while not negatively impacting their performance on a retail showroom floor. With this in mind, stakeholders suggested that use of a forced menu option may meet manufacturers' need for a retail setting while meeting EPA's need for products to be used by consumers in a lower power setting. Thus, EPA calls for the use of IEC 62087 and clarifies that products with a forced menu at start up (i.e., a menu where a user *must* select a mode in which the product will operate prior to being able to view anything on the TV) may test and qualify their products in a standard mode. To further consistent messaging to consumers about how to set their TVs for home use, EPA is calling on manufacturers to provide two choices: "home" or "retail" in the interface that appears when a consumer or retail customer first starts a TV that makes use of a forced menu option.

On the November 6, 2007, TV Stakeholder call, EPA proposed, and many stakeholders supported, the notion of amending the current Draft 2 proposal for TVs with a forced menu at start-up such that retail employees or those using a TV in a home setting who had selected the "retail" setting would not be repeatedly prompted to confirm their desire to make use of this setting. Stakeholders also asked that EPA provide flexibility regarding the use of the words "home" and "retail."

Currently, Section 4.E.2.d. Testing at Factory Settings of the Draft 2 Specification, reads: In measuring the On Mode power consumption of TVs, EPA is interested in capturing first and foremost the power consumption of products as they are shipped from the factory. Any sections of IEC 62087 that instruct the tester to modify factory default settings should be ignored when conducting initial On Mode measurements on a given product. These include sections 11.3.4, "Special functions" and 11.3.5, "Power saving functions." Picture level adjustments that need to be made prior to testing On Mode power consumption should be made per section 11.3.6, "Picture level adjustments," if applicable.

While an immediately subsequent note offers:

The guidance provided in this Draft 2 Version 3.0 TV products specification on implementation of Draft IEC 62087 is similar to the guidance provided in the Draft 1 specification. However, per stakeholder request, EPA has clarified that if applicable, manufacturers should make picture level adjustments as specified in section 11.3.6 prior to testing On Mode power consumption. For products shipped with a forced menu where the customer must select upon initial start up the mode in which the product will operate, IEC 11.3.6 states that these models be tested in standard mode. To further consistent messaging to consumers about how to set their TVs for home use, EPA proposes that the forced menu option provide two choices: home vs retail. If retail is selected, the TV will prompt the user each time they turn on the product to confirm they wish to keep the product in this setting. If home is selected upon initial set-up, the user will not be prompted when next turning on the set. Information relaying that the product qualifies for ENERGY STAR in the home setting and that this is the setting in which power savings will be achieved will be included with the product in its packaging and posted on product listing on the partner's website, where information about the model is listed.

Proposed Revision to Section 4.E.2.d Testing at Factory Settings of the Draft 2 Specification:

In measuring the On Mode power consumption of TVs, EPA is interested in capturing first and foremost the power consumption of products as they are shipped from the factory. Any sections of IEC 62087 that instruct the tester to modify factory default settings should be ignored when conducting initial On Mode measurements on a given product. These include sections 11.4.6, "Special functions" and 11.4.7, "Power saving functions." Picture level adjustments that need to be made prior to testing On Mode power consumption should be made per section 11.4.8, "Picture level adjustments," if applicable.

Section 11.4.8 reads: "The contrast and brightness of the television set and the backlight level, if it exists, shall be set as originally adjusted by the manufacturer to the end user. In the case that a setting mode must be chosen on initial activation, the "standard mode" or equivalent shall be chosen. In the case that no "standard mode" or equivalent exists, the first mode listed in the on-screen menus shall be selected. The mode used during the test shall be described in the report."

The forced menu option should provide two choices: "home" or "retail." EPA will consider alternative proposals regarding the words selected to describe these two modes on a case-by case basis. Should the user select the "retail" setting, he/she will be prompted one additional time to confirm this choice. A manufacturer may substitute information on the start-up menu relaying that the "home" setting is the setting in which the product qualifies for ENERGY STAR for the above described second prompt when "retail" is selected.

Information relaying that the product qualifies for ENERGY STAR in the home setting and that this is the setting in which power savings will be achieved will be included with the product in its packaging and posted on the partner's website, where information about the model is listed.