

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 27, 2006

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computer Stakeholder:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification regarding Idle power test conditions, EPA's timeline for new Partnership Agreement completion, and qualification of products under the new ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Computer specification. This memorandum comes as a result of recent inquiries from partners regarding the enabling of component power management techniques during Idle testing and the timing of and key steps in product qualification.

Idle Testing Clarification

As noted in the Final Draft Comment Responses document distributed with the final specification on October 23, 2006, EPA intends for the Version 4.0 specification to focus on short term Idle to emphasize the rewards from component level power management and other power scaling techniques. Additionally, EPA intends for Idle power measurements and levels of qualification to represent the power use of not only computers which have been left unattended, but also those performing simple tasks (e.g., word processing, document reading, etc.). As such, specifically shutting down the graphics card, HDD, and other similar components during the Idle test is inconsistent with this approach and therefore this specification continues to specify that **computers with external displays perform Idle tests with an active display** and that **the hard drive spin down power management option in the operating system remains set to leave the hard drive spinning**.

Partnership Agreement and Product Qualification

EPA plans to roll out the new Partnership Agreement in January 2007. All manufacturers who wish to become or continue as an ENERGY STAR partner for computers will be required to sign the umbrella ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement before Tier I takes effect on July 20, 2007. In early 2007, EPA plans to distribute further instructions and all necessary documents for becoming a Partner as well as additional information on product qualification.

Under Version 4.0, manufacturers will continue to submit products using the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool. OPS will be updated to reference new requirements of the program. To allow manufacturers time to review the tool and submit products before the Version 4.0 effective date, EPA intends to roll out an updated version of the Computer OPS tool in spring of 2007. EPA will notify partners of the availability of the updated tool in advance of its rollout. In the meantime, please direct any questions and comments on the Partnership Agreement and OPS to computers@icfi.com.

Other Clarification

Please note that Section 5 (Effective Date) of the Final Version 4.0 Computer Specification, specifically points 3 (Elimination of Grandfathering) and 6 (Future Specification Revisions), should read "EPA and the European Commission" rather than EPA only.

As always, thank you for your continued participation in ENERGY STAR. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or kaplan.katharine@epa.gov.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan, EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment