

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: April 29, 2005
TO: ENERGY STAR® External Power Supply Partners and Other Interested Parties
FROM: Andrew Fanara, Program Manager
RE: Proposal for Qualifying External Power Supply (EPS) Model Families

The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- Inform manufacturers that EPA is considering altering the EPS qualification process to allow “EPS model families” to be qualified, per ENERGY STAR’s definition; and
- Solicit stakeholder feedback.

EPA recognizes that EPSs within an EPS model family may have very similar energy-efficiencies. Therefore, EPA is proposing to provide ENERGY STAR EPS manufacturing partners with the option of qualifying entire EPS model families under one set of test data. This option is being considered in order to reduce manufacturers’ data reporting burden. EPS makers will still be able to submit qualifying data on individual EPS models as well.

“EPS Model Family” Definition

For ENERGY STAR’s purposes, an EPS model family would be defined as **a group of switchmode external power supplies that feature the same design (e.g. circuitry components), transformer, and output wattage, but differ in rated output voltage.**¹ This proposed EPA definition of an EPS model family might not be identical to each manufacturer’s model family definition. When qualifying products as ENERGY STAR, EPA’s model family definition would take precedence.

For example, assume all of the models in the table below use the same transformer and design and meet the ENERGY STAR specification. The last five models, AB-53 – AB-57, could be qualified as an ENERGY STAR EPS model family because they have the same 10-watt output power. The first two models would need to be qualified as individual models.

¹ Please note that EPA’s proposed model family definition and requirements echo the current ENERGY STAR requirements for multiple tap or switch selectable power supplies. See Section 4.D of the ENERGY STAR EPS Eligibility Criteria. A multiple tap or switch selectable power supply utilizes one transformer and varies its rated output voltage. In this manner, the multiple tap or switch selectable power supply is essentially an entire ENERGY STAR model family in a single unit.

Model	Output Voltage, Output Current	Output Power
AB-51	10V, 0.83A	8.3W
AB-52	11V, 0.83A	9.1W
AB-53	12V, 0.83A	10W
AB-54	13V, 0.77A	10W
AB-55	14V, 0.71A	10W
AB-56	15V, 0.67A	10W
AB-57	16V, 0.63A	10W

Qualifying An EPS Model Family

To qualify a model family, the EPS maker would submit efficiency data (average of three test units) for the highest and lowest output voltage members of the EPS model family that meets the ENERGY STAR specification. Thus, in the example above, test data for models AB-53 and AB-57 would have to be submitted. (Power supplies capable of operating at multiple input voltages and frequencies would be tested at 115 volts at 60 Hz and 230 volts at 50 Hz.) If the model family proposal is implemented, EPA will revise and redistribute its Qualifying Products Test Report Form to accommodate model family data.

Under the proposed model family option, manufacturers would continue to be held accountable for any efficiency claims made about their external power supply products. In other words, even if data were not submitted to EPA on each model, manufacturers would still be responsible for ensuring (and if challenged by another party, defending) their compliance with ENERGY STAR. The decision to qualify a family or individual model would be left to the manufacturer's discretion.

Comments Due on May 14

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback on this proposed change **no later than May 14, 2005**. Please direct all input to Brooke Taylor, ICF Consulting, via email at btaylor@icfconsulting.com or via telephone at (202) 862-1586.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support of ENERGY STAR. For reference, all ENERGY STAR EPS program materials can be found at www.energystar.gov/powersupplies.