

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

September 29, 2004

Dear HVAC Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

In January 2006, the Federal standard for central air conditioners (CAC) and air source heat pumps (ASHP) will increase to 13 SEER. In light of this, EPA is revisiting the current ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> specification for CAC/ASHP. At the same time, EPA is considering the inclusion of installation-related criteria within the new specification since potential benefits of improving the installation of HVAC systems may be more significant than the marginal benefit to consumers of simply selecting higher SEER equipment.

Attached is a "strawman" document that outlines a range of potential elements for this new type of specification, as well as the options being considered for some of these elements. On October 5-6, 2004, EPA will be holding our ENERGY STAR HVAC Partner and Stakeholder Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago. This document will be the focus of the afternoon discussion, allowing participants to provide feedback and exchange ideas. Information on the meeting can be found at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=partners.pt\\_meetings](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=partners.pt_meetings).

Even if you are unable to attend the Partner meeting, you are encouraged to provide feedback on this document, including any additional ideas you may have. **All stakeholder comments should be received by Wednesday, October 27, 2004.** At the end of the comment period, EPA will carefully review and consider all comments submitted. The exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Please direct any comments and/or questions to me at (202) 343-9124 or [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov).

To track the progress of ENERGY STAR for CAC/ASHPs, go to [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) and click on "Revisions to Existing Product Specifications."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz".

Rachel Schmeltz, EPA  
ENERGY STAR Product Manager