

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

May 27, 2005

Dear Air Source Heat Pump/Central Air Conditioner Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

EPA is pleased to provide you with the following Draft 2 specification for ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> qualified air source heat pumps (ASHPs) and central air conditioners (CACs) and welcomes your comments. The document outlines the criteria that ASHPs and CAC equipment will need to meet to qualify for ENERGY STAR beginning March 27, 2006. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and **provide comments by June 24, 2005**. This relatively short comment period will enable EPA to finalize the specification in time for it to go into effect shortly after the new Federal Standard for this equipment in January 2006. Please note, **no extensions will be granted for this comment period**.

EPA distributed the Draft 1 ENERGY STAR specification for CAC and ASHPs to stakeholders on January 28, 2005, with a request that comments on the document be received by March 25<sup>th</sup>. This deadline was subsequently extended to April 8<sup>th</sup>. Draft 1 contained proposed energy-efficiency criteria for CAC/ASHP equipment, as well as installation criteria for qualified systems. In addition, Draft 1 proposed a shift in process for ENERGY STAR in that only systems, once installed and verified for proper air flow and refrigerant charge, could be labeled as ENERGY STAR. Finally, the ENERGY STAR partnership was proposed to shift from manufacturers of equipment to those instituting programs to verify proper installation of systems. All comments received on Draft 1 were reviewed and considered carefully during the development of the Draft 2 specification. Where agreed to by the author, written comments are posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment).

Due to the need to revise the equipment specification before the new Federal Standard takes effect and the overwhelming response from stakeholders that EPA should continue to allow the ENERGY STAR mark on efficient equipment, EPA is moving forward with the equipment specification and continuing the ENERGY STAR Partnership with manufacturers. Therefore, this Draft 2 of the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for ASHP and Central Air Conditioner Equipment contains specifications for equipment only. While EPA still considers proper installation vital to achieving the stated energy efficiency ratings of equipment, we have decided to develop a separate specification for proper installation. The estimated date for implementing this proper installation specification is January 1, 2007. Between now and 2007, EPA will work with stakeholders to identify proper testing and verification methods to qualify systems as "installed to ENERGY STAR guidelines."

The Draft 2 specification incorporates the following key changes and/or decisions made by EPA:

- Manufacturers may remain partners and label qualifying CAC/ASHP equipment with the ENERGY STAR certification mark. The following disclaimer statement must accompany the mark when used in printed materials and on the Internet: "Proper sizing and installation of equipment is critical to achieve optimal performance. Split system air conditioners and heat pumps must be matched with appropriate coil components to meet ENERGY STAR criteria. Ask your contractor for details or visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)." Additional technician-focused language is proposed for use in

installation manuals.

- A definition for the term “Matched Assembly” was added to Section 1.
- Ductless mini-split equipment may qualify for ENERGY STAR if it meets the energy-efficiency criteria.
- Energy-efficiency criteria for split systems have been adjusted to 14 SEER/11.5 EER/8.2 HSPF.
- Energy-efficiency criteria for single package equipment remain unchanged.

One outstanding issue remains with regard to gas/electric package units. A request was received to eliminate these units from ENERGY STAR qualification unless EPA also specifies a heating requirement in addition to the current cooling requirement. EPA has also received this feedback in the past, however, due to data limitations we are not currently able to specify a heating requirement. Therefore, EPA is considering eliminating these units from qualifying for ENERGY STAR until such time as a heating requirement may be instituted. Before making these changes, **EPA would appreciate further feedback on whether gas/electric package units should be eliminated from the ENERGY STAR specification for CAC/ASHPs.**

Please send all comments by **June 24, 2005** to me at [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov). Should you have any questions about the Draft 2 specification please contact me via e-mail or phone at (202) 343-9124.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager