

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 15, 2005

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the Final ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Specification for Central Air Conditioners and Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHPs). The attached specification outlines the performance and testing requirements that qualifying products must meet in order to earn the ENERGY STAR. The Final Specification is the same as the Revised Final Draft that was distributed on August 2, 2005. No changes have been made to the document. As such, the final specification is as follows:

TIER 1 – Effective April 1, 2006
Energy-Efficiency Criteria for Qualified Residential
ASHPs and Central Air Conditioners

Product Type	SEER	EER	HSPF (for heat pumps only)
Split Systems	≥ 14	≥ 11.5	≥ 8.2
Single Package Equipment (including gas/electric package units)	≥ 14	≥ 11	≥ 8.0

TIER 2 – Effective January 1, 2009
Energy-Efficiency Criteria for Qualified Residential
ASHPs and Central Air Conditioners

Product Type	SEER	EER	HSPF (for heat pumps only)
Split Systems	≥ 14.5	≥ 12	≥ 8.2
Single Package Equipment (including gas/electric package units)	≥ 14	≥ 11	≥ 8.0

As stated in Section 5(B) of the specification, at least one year before Tier 2 becomes effective, EPA will assess the Tier 2 level to ensure its feasibility in the marketplace.

Please note, EPA does not plan to independently develop a complete list of qualifying products. Instead, assuming the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) adopts ENERGY STAR levels as their Tier 1, stakeholders will be encouraged to use the CEE Directory of ARI Verified Equipment to determine which model combinations meet the energy-efficiency criteria for qualified residential ASHPs and central air conditioners. Any manufacturers that do not participate in the ARI certification program will be expected to submit product information directly to EPA for listing on the www.energystar.gov web site.

The process of revising the ENERGY STAR specification for central air conditioners and ASHPs was an especially long and difficult one. It required striking a delicate balance between setting an aggressive specification while ensuring adequate product availability in the face of significant unknowns including the new Federal Standard due to become effective almost simultaneously with the revised ENERGY STAR specification. On behalf of EPA, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the specification revision process for their patience and thoughtful comments. All comments received throughout the entire process, are available on the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment, unless the submitter requested otherwise.

Although not contained in this specification, EPA is still very interested in addressing quality installation of HVAC systems and best practices for contractors and technicians through the work of the ENERGY STAR Home Improvement Team. If you are interested in following the progress of and participating in these efforts please contact Dale Hoffmeyer at hoffmeyer.dale@epa.gov.

Thank you again for your participation in the development of this revised specification. I look forward to working with you to ensure a smooth transition to the new Version 4.0 specification. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov or (202) 343-9124.

Respectfully,

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