

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 1, 2005

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

EPA is pleased to provide you with the following Final Draft specification for ENERGY STAR[®] 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 April 1, 2006. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and **provide comments by July 22, 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 2 ENERGY STAR specification for CAC and ASHPs to stakeholders on May 27, 2005, with a request that comments on the document be received by June 24th. All comments received on Draft 2 were reviewed and considered carefully during the development of the Final Draft specification. Where agreed to by the author, written comments are posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

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


- The definition for "Matched Assembly" was refined.
- Gas/electric package units continue to be included under qualifying products
- Energy-efficiency criteria for split systems have been adjusted to 14 SEER/12 EER/8.2 HSPF.
- Testing language was added to Section 4.
- The effective date was changed from March 27th, 2006 to April 1, 2006

Further explanation for these changes and decisions may be found in the note boxes contained within the Eligibility Criteria of the Final Draft specification.

The Final Draft of the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for ASHP and Central Air Conditioner Equipment contains specifications for equipment only. However, EPA considers proper installation vital to achieving the stated energy efficiency ratings of central air conditioners and air source heat pumps. Therefore, between now and 2007, EPA will work with stakeholders to develop a separate specification to address installation and identify methods to verify that equipment is installed to meet ENERGY STAR specifications.

Please send all comments by **July 22, 2005** to me at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov. Should you have any questions about the Final Draft 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 style with a long, sweeping tail on the "z".

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Program Manager