



January 22, 2002

Dear HVAC Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

I am pleased to announce that the ENERGY STAR[®] specification for residential air-source heat pumps (ASHP) and central air conditioners Version 3.0 has been finalized. Your valuable feedback and input throughout the development process has been integral to the design of the specification and is very much appreciated. Please note that EPA considers this specification to be final and has no further plans to revise it at this time. An official announcement to this effect will be posted on our web site in the future.

The five-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. Please note that the document contains two sections. The first, titled "Partner Commitments" is uniform across all ENERGY STAR labeled products. The second, titled "Eligibility Criteria" is specific to central air conditioners and ASHPs.

All stakeholder comments on Draft 2 of the revised specification were reviewed and considered carefully during the development of the final specification. Based on these comments and suggestions, the final specification incorporates the following major additions and revisions.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO COMMENTS AND CHANGES FROM DRAFT 2 TO FINAL:

- EER continues to be a component of this specification.
 - As stated previously, EER is included so that ENERGY STAR goes beyond seasonal energy performance to also address peak load energy performance, an issue that is of increasing importance in light of the energy issues that face our nation.
 - Issues raised that EER is not a certified rating are again duly noted; however, as stated before, the ENERGY STAR program has always been and will continue to be a self-certifying, self-policing program. The fact that the other HVAC metrics, SEER and HSPF, are certified by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (ARI), is a welcome component of ENERGY STAR, however it does not preclude the addition of metrics that are not certified.
 - A sentence was added to Section 4 "Test Criteria" to clarify the appropriate conditions under which equipment should be tested for EER: ARI 210/240-94, Operating Condition A - 95°F outdoor air temperature, 80°F dry bulb/67°F wet bulb indoor coil air entering conditions.



- The final specification maintains the single package specification: 12 SEER/10.5 EER/7.6 HSPF.
 - Requests to relax the HSPF value for heat pumps to 7.3 or 7.1 would represent a step backward in efficiency levels compared to the specification that has been in place since January 2000. EPA did not find compelling market reasons to support such a change.
 - Ductless or mini-split systems were removed from the specification.
 - Based on conversations with manufacturers of this equipment, it was determined that the levels set in Draft 2 were not appropriate at this time.
 - EPA will continue to work with manufacturers so that these products can be explicitly included in the future.
 - EPA will take action against those manufacturers who are inappropriately labeling these products.
 - Comments stating that the revised specification does not represent adequate shipment of high-efficiency products are again duly noted. EPA views the availability of models to be adequate to support the revised specification and plans to engage in activities to increase the shipment levels of high-efficiency equipment, as a key goal of the program.
 - In April 2002, in partnership with manufacturers, retailers, contractors, and utilities, EPA will launch a national cooling campaign promoting the replacement of aging cooling products with ENERGY STAR labeled models. Through this and subsequent collaboration with our partners and based on our success in other residential product categories, we are optimistic about the prospect of increasing sales of energy-efficient HVAC equipment, and thereby saving consumers money and protecting the environment.
 - Questions regarding the planning and implementation of this national promotion should be directed to Jill Vohr at vohr.jill@epa.gov.
 - As requested, EPA is willing to work with a Third Party, such as ARI, to gather product qualification and shipment data.
 - EPA thanks those who provided preliminary comments on the inclusion of fan efficiency in future iterations of this specification. No action will be taken at this time, however, this issue may be raised again in the future.
 - The effective date of this specification was changed to September 30, 2002.
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Any questions regarding this specification should be directed to me via phone at 202-564-9124 or e-mail at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov. Thank you very much to those who submitted comments on the Draft 2 specification. We look forward to working with you on the national cooling promotion and on other projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Program Manager

Enclosure: Final ASHP/Central Air Conditioner Specification
