



DATE: July 2, 2001

TO: ENERGY STAR® HVAC Partners

FROM: Peter Banwell, ENERGY STAR Product Manager

RE: Clarification to the Air-Source Heat Pump/Central Air Conditioner Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Version 2.0 for Labeling of Gas/Electric Package Units

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Below is a clarification from ENERGY STAR addressing the labeling of gas/electric package units under the Air-Source Heat Pump/Central Air Conditioner MOU Version 2.0. This clarification comes as the result of partner inquiries on this issue. Please note that this document and the MOU can be found on the Tools and Library section of the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). This clarification is effective immediately.

#### ENERGY STAR Qualification for Gas/Electric Package Units

In the past few months, ENERGY STAR has received several inquiries from partners about labeling gas/electric package units (i.e., single package units <65,000 Btu/h with gas heating and electric air conditioning) under the current specification for residential air conditioners (minimum of 12 SEER). Many manufacturers produce and market these products and a number of utility programs across the country are offering rebates for high efficiency models. After careful consideration, we have decided that **effective immediately these units may qualify for the ENERGY STAR label if the cooling portion meets or exceeds 12 SEER.**

#### New Specification in 2002

As you know, the residential central air conditioner and heat pump specification is currently being revised. Draft 1 of the specification is available on the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) under Heating and Cooling. ENERGY STAR expects to finalize the specification this summer with a tentative effective date of April 1, 2002.

Please note that as we consider industry comments on Draft 1, we will also incorporate gas/electric package units into the new specification. Thus, only units that meet the new specification as of its effective date will be allowed to carry the ENERGY STAR label. The new draft specification has a minimum requirement of 13 SEER/11EER. Therefore, looking forward, you may consider planning for the new requirement by early to mid 2002.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this clarification, please do not hesitate to call me. I can be reached at 202-564-9408 or [banwell.peter@epa.gov](mailto:banwell.peter@epa.gov). As always, thank you for your participation in ENERGY STAR.