



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 9, 2007

Dear ENERGY STAR® for Windows, Doors, and Skylights stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is pleased to announce that it is beginning a criteria review and revision process for ENERGY STAR qualified windows, doors, and skylights.

There are three reasons the DOE is pursuing a criteria change:

- Improving energy efficiency is a national priority.
- IECC 2003 and 2006 have prescriptive requirements for windows that are the same as ENERGY STAR for either SHGC or U-factor in all states; 28 states have already adopted these codes.
- ENERGY STAR is meant to provide product differentiation, but ENERGY STAR windows now make up over 50% of the market; ENERGY STAR has a target market share of 25% for all products.

The selection of new criteria and the criteria change process will be guided by the principles outlined in ["The ENERGY STAR Label: A Summary of Product Labeling Objectives and Guiding Principles."](#) DOE is considering a variety of adjustments to the criteria in order to meet the requirements of the guiding principles:

- (1) Significant energy savings realized on a national basis
 - Substantially lower U-Factor in northern zones (initial target range: 0.20-0.30)
 - Capture winter solar gain using a minimum SHGC in the north
 - Substantially lower SHGC in southern zones (initial target range: 0.20-0.30)
- (2) Product performance which can be maintained or enhanced with increased energy efficiency
 - Require IGU certification
 - Add minimum VT criteria to ensure adequate light
- (3) Recovered investment for purchasers within a reasonable period of time through increased energy efficiency
 - Bring the ENERGY STAR climate zones into closer alignment with the IECC 2006 climate zones
 - Divide Northern zone in two corresponding to IECC Zones 5 and Zones 6+7
 - Allow SHGC/U-Factor trade-offs in both the north and south to expand range of products
- (4) Energy-efficiency that can be achieved with several technology options, at least one of which is non-proprietary
 - Explore emerging technologies such as dynamic glazings

- (5) Product energy consumption and performance that can be measured and verified with testing
 - Establish installation procedures to ensure performance
- (6) Labeling that effectively differentiates products and is visible for purchasers
 - Maintain display unit and product labeling

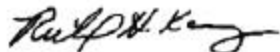
For its initial analysis, DOE is currently gathering data to determine what levels of energy performance are possible with the current technologies, the costs and technologies required to achieve various levels of performance, and the energy savings that higher performance products could deliver. DOE is also evaluating the potential impacts of proposed changes.

DOE has established the following tentative timeline for the criteria revision process:

Tentative Timeline	
Initial Analysis	July 2007 – December 2007
Initial Analysis Published and Distributed	December 2007
Stakeholder Meeting	February 2008
Announce Finalized Criteria	March 2008
Earliest Effective Date of New Criteria	January 1, 2009

The Department of Energy welcomes information on product availability and marginal cost. Please contact Emily Zachery at D&R International via e-mail at ezachery@drintl.com or by phone at 301-588-9387.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Karney, P.E.
ENERGY STAR Program Manager