



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 4, 2008

Dear ENERGY STAR® ASHP/CAC Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the ENERGY STAR Tier 2 requirements for central air conditioners (CAC) and air-source heat pumps (ASHP) will go into effect, as scheduled, on January 1, 2009. The Tier 2 requirements are as follows:

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

In preparation for Tier 2, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revisited the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration (AHRI) Certified Product Directory to determine the availability of models in the marketplace that could meet the requirements. According to our analysis, conducted on May 12, 2008, roughly 18 – 30% of CAC/ASHP models available in the marketplace meet the Tier 2 requirements, representing a variety of manufacturers and brands. The following is a breakdown of the results by product type:

Split System CAC	24%
Split System ASHP	18%
Single Package CAC	23%
Single Package ASHP	30%

Based on these results, EPA is confident that a sufficient number of ENERGY STAR qualified models will be available in the marketplace when Tier 2 takes effect on January 1, 2009.

All equipment including model combinations originally qualified under the Tier 1 specification, with a date of manufacture on or after **January 1, 2009**, must meet the Tier 2 requirements in order to qualify for ENERGY STAR. For model combinations that qualified under Tier 1, but no longer qualify under Tier 2, the ENERGY STAR label may no longer be placed on these model combinations and the label must be removed from product literature and the company's Web site where it is associated with these model combinations.

EPA will work with the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) and AHRI to ensure that as of January 1, 2009 only those models that meet ENERGY STAR Tier 2 requirements will be listed in the CEE Directory of AHRI Verified Equipment at www.ceehvacdirectory.org. This directory will continue to serve as the ENERGY STAR CAC/ASHP qualified product list.

As a reminder, as stated in the Partner Commitments section of the ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement, whenever the ENERGY STAR certification mark is used in connection with a qualifying product in advertising, on specification sheets, on marketing materials, and on the manufacturer's Internet site, the Partner must provide the following disclaimer language: "Proper sizing and installation of equipment is critical to achieve optimal performance. Split system air conditioners and heat pumps must be matched with appropriate coil components to meet ENERGY STAR criteria. Ask your contractor for

details or visit www.energystar.gov.” EPA will continue to monitor the market to ensure that this disclaimer language appears as required.

In addition, the Partner must provide detailed information in installation manuals that stresses the importance of proper installation. This information should be written for the equipment installer and should include the following paragraph:

For Package Units: IMPORTANT - This product has been designed and manufactured to meet ENERGY STAR criteria for energy efficiency. However, proper refrigerant charge and proper air flow are critical to achieve rated capacity and efficiency. Installation of this product should follow the manufacturer’s refrigerant charging and air flow instructions. **Failure to confirm proper charge and airflow may reduce energy efficiency and shorten equipment life.**

For Split-System Units: IMPORTANT - This product has been designed and manufactured to meet ENERGY STAR criteria for energy efficiency when matched with appropriate coil components. However, proper refrigerant charge and proper air flow are critical to achieve rated capacity and efficiency. Installation of this product should follow the manufacturer’s refrigerant charging and air flow instructions. **Failure to confirm proper charge and airflow may reduce energy efficiency and shorten equipment life.**

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in ENERGY STAR. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9124 or via email at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Program Manager