

ENERGY STAR® Product Development Update Winter 2009

Provided below are updates on existing and potential ENERGY STAR qualified product categories currently being researched by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). For more information on the status of EPA and DOE's activities, visit the ENERGY STAR Specifications in Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Click on "Revisions to Existing Specifications" or "New Product Specifications in Development" for a list of product-specific Web pages. Contacts are also provided at the end of each update for those parties interested in finding out more about a particular product.

Advanced Technology Water Heaters

ENERGY STAR final criteria for several classes of high efficiency water heaters, including solar, electric heat pump, gas condensing, high-performance gas storage, and gas tankless, took effect on January 1, 2009.

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Audio/Video

On January 12, 2009, EPA hosted a stakeholder meeting in conjunction with the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, NV to begin discussions on revisions to the ENERGY STAR Audio/Video specification. During the meeting, EPA presented objectives for the specification revision process and results of preliminary research. Based on initial feedback, EPA developed a draft specification framework to solicit further suggestions from industry participants. This framework document, along with a proposed timeline for the specification development process, was presented on a conference call on February 4, 2009. A preliminary test procedure was subsequently distributed to stakeholders for review on February 27, 2009. The Draft 1 specification is scheduled for distribution in early May 2009.

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Central Air Conditioners & Air-Source Heat Pumps: Light Commercial

On January 2, 2009, EPA released Draft 1 Version 2.0 of the ENERGY STAR specification for light commercial HVAC for stakeholder review and comment. The draft specification proposes to harmonize three-phase, 65,000 Btu/h light commercial HVAC equipment levels with the current ENERGY STAR Tier II levels for single-phase residential CAC/ASHP equipment. EPA also plans to revise performance levels for larger size equipment (> 65,000 Btu/h), replacing the Integrated Part Load Value (IPLV) metric with Integrated Energy Efficiency Ratio (IEER). The comment period closed on January 30, 2009. EPA is in the process or reviewing stakeholder comments and plans to release a Draft 2 specification within the next few months.

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Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

The final Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR criteria for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) took effect on December 2, 2008. Version 4.0 addresses elevated temperature testing procedures for reflector products, efficacy requirements, color temperature restrictions, and lifetime requirements for bare spiral lamps, among other changes. The new specification also initiated the CFL Third Party Testing and Verification Program. DOE has extended a grace period for manufacturers to sell through products that qualified under Version 3.0 but do not meet Version 4.0 requirements through July 1, 2009.

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Computers: Desktops, Laptops, Workstations, Game Consoles

EPA finalized the Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR program requirements for computer products on November 14, 2008 with an effective date of July 1, 2009. EPA is continuing to work with stakeholders to develop requirements for game consoles. ENERGY STAR criteria for game consoles will be added to the Version 5.0 computers specification when finalized in early 2009.

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Computers: Servers

On February 20, 2009, EPA released a Draft 4 specification for review and comment. The latest Draft 4 proposal includes: new labeling requirements; new power management requirements for systems with greater than two processor sockets in lieu of idle levels; a new category for smaller power supplies (≤ 500 Watts); revised and new adders for I/O devices and redundant power supplies; a new idle test procedure; and revisions to standardized reporting requirements. EPA is also considering including Blade Servers under Tier 1 if data is made available for which performance requirements can be proposed. If requirements cannot be determined under Tier 1, EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to add Blade Servers to the specification at a later date. The Draft 4 comment period ends March 20, 2009. EPA is now working toward a finalization and effective date of May 1, 2009.

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Displays / Monitors

EPA released the Final Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR Displays specification for products under 30 inches viewable diagonal screen size on January 30, 2009. This version includes language to clarify test luminance requirements and clarification of the definition of Off mode. On February 13, 2009, EPA distributed revised On, Sleep, and Off mode power consumption requirements for displays greater than or equal to 30 inches viewable diagonal screen size based on performance data collected from stakeholders. An online stakeholder meeting was held on February 18, 2009 to discuss the proposed requirements for displays greater than 30 inches diagonal screen size with stakeholders. EPA intends to distribute the Final Version 5.0 Displays specification for all product sizes on March 30, 2009. The effective date for displays with greater than 30 inches diagonal screen size is under consideration. The effective date for all other products covered by the Display 5.0 specification is October 30, 2009.

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Griddles: Commercial

EPA held a stakeholder meeting on February 4, 2009 in conjunction with the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) show to discuss comments received on the Draft 1 specification and initial thoughts regarding a Draft 2 proposal. Key items for discussion included griddles with partial top platens, challenges with the electric griddle data set, and EPA's approach for measuring idle energy rate. EPA's presentation and meeting notes are available on the ENERGY STAR Web site. Based on these discussions, EPA is preparing a Draft 2 specification to be released for review and comment in early March.

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Ovens: Commercial

EPA held a stakeholder meeting on February 4, 2009 in conjunction with the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) show to discuss comments received on the Draft 1 specification. Key items for discussion included testing ovens with multiple controls, including countertop ovens, challenges with limited data sets for electric convection and rack ovens, and EPA's approach for categorizing oven sizes. EPA's presentation and meeting notes are available on the ENERGY STAR

Web site. Based on these discussions, EPA is preparing a Draft 2 specification to be released for review and comment in early March.

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Programmable Thermostats

The current ENERGY STAR specification for programmable thermostats includes requirements for participation in a consumer education campaign and a sunset date of December 31, 2009 if performance requirements cannot be determined. In early 2009, EPA will host a workshop with NEMA to discuss the next generation ENERGY STAR specification for programmable thermostats. EPA intends to expand participation to include ergonomic and user interface specialists in addition to manufacturers. EPA is considering future workshops to discuss methods to measure functionality and usability and the development of next-generation test plans. EPA intends to work with industry prior to the December 31 deadline to develop innovative collaborative proposals for new performance requirements for programmable thermostats to ensure savings for consumers.

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Refrigerators and Freezers: Commercial

EPA released a Draft 3 Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR specification for commercial refrigerators and freezers on December 4, 2008. The Draft 3 includes revised definitions for solid and glass door cabinets, clarifications to the referenced safety and quality standards, new guidance on units containing both solid and glass doors on the same side of the cabinet, revised maximum daily energy consumption (MDEC) requirements, and clarifications on the test procedures. Based on stakeholder comments, EPA will distribute a Final Draft specification in early March and a Final specification by the end of March. The Version 2.0 specification will take effect on April 1, 2009 for glass door cabinets and January 1, 2010 for all other products.

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Refrigerators and Freezers: Laboratory Grade

EPA held a stakeholder meeting on January 22, 2009 in Washington, DC to discuss ideas to augment the ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 72-2005, *Method of Testing Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers*, to better emulate laboratory grade applications. Based on these discussions, EPA is in the process of developing a Draft 1 supplement to the test procedure and will release this proposal in early March for review and comment. Once the test procedure supplement is finalized, EPA will initiate the ENERGY STAR specification development process and work with manufacturers collect information on product performance.

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Solid State Lighting Luminaires

On December 19, 2008, DOE finalized a revision of final criteria for solid state lighting luminaires, Version 1.1, which took effect on February 1, 2009, and increased the number of lighting applications that are eligible. On January 16, 2009, DOE released a draft criteria for Integral LED Lamps which are intended to replace standard general service incandescent lamps of 25 watts or greater, decorative (candelabra style) lamps, standard reflector lamps of 20 watts or greater, and non-standard lamps.

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Televisions

The Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR program requirements for televisions (TVs) took effect on November 1, 2008. Based on initial feedback EPA received concerning the low luminance levels in “home” mode of ENERGY STAR qualified TVs, EPA distributed guidance on test luminance reporting requirements to stakeholders on December 12, 2008. This guidance is intended to mitigate the risks of diminished consumer savings, reduced environmental benefits, and inconsistencies between test results and actual consumer usage that can result from artificially low test luminance levels.

On February 9, 2009, EPA launched the revision of the Version 3.0 Tier 2 ENERGY STAR specification for televisions. Due to a rapid uptake of the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR requirements, and in response to requests from various stakeholders, EPA initiated this revision process slightly earlier than initially planned. EPA intends to focus on modification of On-mode power consumption requirements to create two additional qualification tiers, new luminance requirements, and new limits on the time products are allowed to spend in Download Acquisition Mode. In mid-February, EPA invited stakeholders to submit product data on models available in the second quarter of 2010. Based on the data received, EPA plans to distribute Draft 1 of the Tier 2 specification in April, which will then be followed by a stakeholder meeting in Washington, DC on Friday April 24, 2009.

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Ventilating Fans

EPA distributed the Final Version 2.1 ENERGY STAR Ventilating Fan specification on January 15, 2009, effective immediately. The purpose of this revision is to provide partners with greater flexibility in terms of the process to test and qualify products. The Final Version allows Partners to utilize either Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) or Air Movement & Control Association (AMCA) to certify the Partner’s products pursuant to ENERGY STAR qualification; includes third party laboratory accreditation requirements; outlines certification program requirements; and clarifies the process for submitting multi-speed fans and range hoods with multiple possible configurations for qualification.

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Windows, Doors, and Skylights

Due to changes in building codes and the increased market share of ENERGY STAR qualified windows, doors and skylights, DOE is conducting a criteria analysis for windows, doors, and skylights. Following the end of the public comment period on November 14, 2008, DOE began additional analysis to determine final criteria that will be announced in 2009.

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