



# Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 18, 2004

Dear ENERGY STAR Partner:

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidance on ENERGY STAR qualification, marketing and labeling for residential skylights still using ratings based on the National Fenestration Rating Council's (NFRC) 1997 procedures.

## ENERGY STAR Qualification of RES97 Rated Skylights

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has created a second representation of the minimum U-Factor performance requirements necessary for ENERGY STAR qualification for skylights still rated under NFRC 1997 procedures for residential windows (RES97) that rated skylights at 90 degrees (Table 1).

The current ENERGY STAR qualification criteria for skylights presume performance is rated using the NFRC 2001 procedures, which rate skylights at 20 degrees. The RES97 procedures result in substantially lower U-Factor ratings than the NFRC 2001 procedures. The new ENERGY STAR performance criteria for RES97 rated skylights are intended to represent energy efficiency benchmarks equivalent to those defined for NFRC 2001 rated skylights.

DOE established these ENERGY STAR RES97 criteria in light of NFRC's recent decision to permit skylight manufacturers with RES97 rated products to use the residential rating numbers in the new NFRC one-size label until the product's RES97 test results expire. Since NFRC allowed RES97 testing until April 1, 2004, and test results are valid for four years, RES97 rated products could be in the marketplace until March 31, 2008.

**Table 1: ENERGY STAR Qualification Criteria for Skylights**

<i>Climate Zone</i>	<b>Skylights</b>		
	<i>U-Factor*</i> <i>(RES97 rated at 90 degrees)</i>	<i>U-Factor</i> <i>(NFRC 2001 rated at 20 degrees)</i>	<i>SHGC**</i>
Northern	≤ 0.45	≤ 0.60	Any
North/Central	≤ 0.45	≤ 0.60	≤ 0.40
South/Central	≤ 0.45	≤ 0.60	≤ 0.40
Southern	≤ 0.75	≤ 0.75	≤ 0.40

\* Btu/h-ft<sup>2</sup>·°F      \*\* Fraction of incident solar radiation

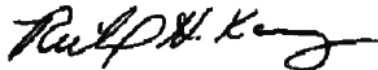
## **ENERGY STAR Marketing and Labeling of RES97 Rated Skylights**

Skylights rated using RES97 must meet the following requirements to be marketed and labeled as ENERGY STAR:

1. Have NFRC-certified performance that meets or exceeds the ENERGY STAR qualification criteria for RES97 rated products;
2. Follow NFRC certification and labeling requirements and guidelines for RES97 rated skylights; in particular, skylights must display the NFRC one-size label which states: "RES97 rated at 90 degrees" on or before October 1, 2004; and
3. Abide by all applicable requirements of the ENERGY STAR Identity Guidelines and ENERGY STAR for Windows, Doors, and Skylights Label and Promotional Map Use Guidelines.

Questions regarding this guidance may be directed to Stephen Bickel, D&R International, at [sbickel@drintl.com](mailto:sbickel@drintl.com) or (301) 588-9387.

Sincerely,



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U.S. Department of Energy