



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 19, 2001

Dear ENERGY STAR Windows Stakeholder:

In July 2001, the Department of Energy (DOE) initiated a review of the criteria for ENERGY STAR windows and partially glazed doors. In part, this review was precipitated by changes to energy codes in several states across the country. As a result of code changes in several states, minimum energy performance requirements will exceed the current ENERGY STAR specification in some areas.

In August 2001, DOE issued a draft proposal that would eliminate the three climate region-specific qualification criteria in favor of a single national specification for each product type (windows, doors and skylights). To allow stakeholders to adjust to this proposed change to the criteria, DOE proposed a two-step change to the ENERGY STAR windows criteria. The first step would modify the current criteria sufficiently to align ENERGY STAR with state energy codes, and add new criteria for partially glazed and unglazed doors. The second step would establish a single national specification for each product type.

After careful review of the many comments from our industry partners, DOE has concluded that a single national specification for each product type should not be adopted this time. Although the simplicity of a single set of criteria would benefit retailers, builders, and consumers, DOE has determined that a multi-climate approach remains the best system presently to allow regional marketing of glass and window technologies that are best suited to particular areas of the country. DOE will continue to work with ENERGY STAR partners and other stakeholders to determine whether and when a single-criteria approach may be more beneficial to the program.

The criteria for ENERGY STAR Windows are shown on the attached specification sheet. The new criteria take effect for products manufactured starting on January 1, 2002. The climate region map has been changed to reflect the revised ENERGY STAR specifications. The climate region boundaries generally follow the 2000 and 6000 Heating Degree Day lines, but adjustments have been made to accommodate local codes in areas such as Southern California, and to maintain program simplicity in areas such as Arizona and the Pacific Northwest. The new specification for doors matches the specification for windows in each of the three climate regions.

The Department recognizes that consumers will still find ENERGY STAR labels on products meeting the old specification while the new criteria take effect. Therefore, during this transition period, retailers may continue to use existing product labels or marketing materials, for a period of six months. Retailers must remove or cover ENERGY STAR labels on products not meeting the revised specification, and cease using marketing

materials displaying the old climate map, no later than June 30, 2002. To minimize confusion and reduce customer complaints, partners should keep sales associates informed about the new specification.

We appreciate the thoughtful comments offered by partners who reviewed the proposed changes to the criteria. Questions related to the qualification criteria may be directed to Gary Curtis at 503-364-4127 or via e-mail to gcurtis@drintl.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Noel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "N".

William E. Noel, Manager
ENERGY STAR Program
Office of Building Technology Assistance
Building Technology, State
And Community Programs

Effective 1/1/02

ENERGY STAR Climate Region Map

	Windows & Doors		Skylights	
	<u>U-Factor</u>	<u>SHGC</u>	<u>U-Factor</u>	<u>SHGC</u>
Northern Region	0.35	Any	0.45	Any
Central Region	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.40
Southern Region	0.75	0.40	0.75	0.40

