ENERGY STAR® Computers Version 4.0:
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
May 2007

As the effective date for Version 4.0 of the ENERGY STAR Computer Specification approaches, EPA is receiving many questions about the requirements. This document intends to share with all stakeholders the key questions that have been raised and EPA's replies. For further detail regarding the 4.0 Specification, please visit www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment and follow the links for Revisions to Existing Specifications and Computers. This Web site includes copies of all final documents related to this specification, data analyzed in development of this specification, and a collection of all comments received during development of the specification.

Product Submittal, Qualification, and Partnership

- *How do manufacturers sign up to become Partners to the Version 4.0 Computers program?*

EPA is distributing with this FAQ document a message to ENERGY STAR Computer Equipment Partners and prospective Partners with further information on an updated Partnership Agreement for the program. Also included in this message will be instructions on how to submit product for review under the Version 4.0 Specification. The timing of this message, and its contents, will allow manufacturers to complete the updated Partnership paperwork and begin to submit products for review in advance of the July 20, 2007 Tier I effective date.

- *How will products be submitted under this revised specification and when will the Online Product Submittal system be available?*

As introduced in the previous question, EPA is sharing information today on the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool. EPA is currently working to update the OPS module for computers to address changes in the program. The overall procedure to submit computers for ENERGY STAR review will be the same as it has been – manufacturers will log into OPS on the ENERGY STAR website, enter product information and test data, and submit the data to ENERGY STAR for review. For an overview of the OPS system, please refer to the "Visit the OPS Tutorial" link on the ENERGY STAR website at https://energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=ops.

- *Can multiple workstations be qualified as a family when submitting product data to ENERGY STAR?*

No - workstations cannot be qualified as families under the Version 4.0 Computers Specification. Product data submitted must apply to the single model associated with it at the time of submittal. Additional workstations must be tested and submitted separately.

- *Can a workstation can be qualified using the desktop category A, B or C guidelines and be marketed as a workstation? How does this impact product listing in online tools and the Qualified Product list?*

A manufacturer may choose to qualify a product marketed as a workstation under the Desktop criteria in the Version 4.0 Specification, but may only do so under the B and C Desktop Idle Categories. However, the product will be listed as a *Desktop* in all ENERGY STAR materials, including the online Find a Product tool and on the monthly Qualified Product lists. Additionally, products submitted in this way must be submitted system by system, not as a family; all submitted data will apply directly to the model being submitted.

To have a product appear as a workstation in ENERGY STAR materials, it must be tested and qualified against the Workstation requirements in the Specification.

- *What if a product meets the specification requirements in one region of the world but not others? Should the mark include a disclaimer on the partner Web site, product packaging, or product manual?*

If a product is tested to the regional voltage/frequency combinations provided in **Appendix A – ENERGY STAR Test Procedure for Determining the Power Use of Computers in Standby, Sleep, Idle and Maximum Power**, and found to not meet the Version 4.0 specification in one or more of the regions where it will be sold, the partner must ensure that the product does not bear the ENERGY STAR mark in that market, and partners need to clearly convey this to consumers. This may mean that a product will bear the ENERGY STAR in one market and not in another. If only one type of product packaging is used to ship a product or one Web site is used to display information about a product that meets ENERGY STAR requirements in one market and not in another, the packaging and/or Web site need to have clear language identifying the markets where the product meets ENERGY STAR. Partners are encouraged to work with EPA to determine acceptable means to convey this information. Partners are also encouraged to contact the international program implementer for the region concerned to determine the labeling requirements of that region. A list of international ENERGY STAR program implementers is available on the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/partners. Manufacturers may also contact Rachel Schmeltz, EPA, at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov with questions about international implementation.

Implementation of Labeling Requirements for ENERGY STAR Qualified Office Equipment

Country/Region	Display on Top/Front of Product	Display on Product Packaging	Display in Product Literature/Box Inserts	Manufacturer's Web site
Canada	Required	Required (need to be visibly identified at retail)	Required	Required
EU	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged
New Zealand/ Australia	Required	Required	Required	Required
Taiwan	Required	Required	Required	Required

- *If the customer chooses to purchase an additional floppy/hard drive with a notebook computer that would be shipped in the same shipping box/package, but not physically installed in the notebook, is the partner allowed to ship these peripherals and maintain qualification?*

Peripherals such as a floppy drive that are physically external to the computer, connected by the customer after shipment by a manufacturer, and are easily separated by the customer do not need be installed when testing products. It is understood that these peripherals are connected on an as-needed basis by the user.

If a drive is pre-installed and the product ships with the drive installed, ENERGY STAR would expect a manufacturer to test its product as shipped.

Modal Efficiency Requirements

- *If sections of the main system memory are allocated only to graphics, is this memory considered "dedicated, non-shared memory" for the purpose of determining Idle Category?*

No. If the graphics controller (GPU) uses a section of system RAM (i.e. a single memory controller provides the memory resources for both graphics and system memory) as graphics memory, then this memory is considered "shared." **For Desktops** in this scenario, the system memory, both the amount apportioned to graphics and the remainder of the main system memory, would be used in Category B determination ("Minimum 1 gigabyte of system memory"), but not as part of the "dedicated, non-shared memory" definition of Category C. **For Notebooks** in this scenario, this section of system memory apportioned to graphics is not considered part of the "dedicated, non-shared memory" used to define Category B.

- *If the computer uses an integrated graphics controller, how does this affect its Idle Category and the "dedicated, non-shared memory" used to determine its Idle Category?*

It does not affect the memory requirement for Idle classification. Please see the response to the previous question for information related to portions of system memory allocated as graphics memory.

- *Are all ENERGY STAR Computers under Version 4.0 required to have the ability to enable and disable Wake on LAN (WOL) from for Sleep mode?*

Yes, if the computer ships with Ethernet. As stated in the Specification, "all computers, regardless of the distribution channel, shall have the ability to enable and disable WOL for Sleep mode". As a reminder, computers sold through enterprise channels are required to ship with WOL enabled from sleep. Also, computers must be tested as shipped.

Power Supply Efficiency Requirements

- *What document should partners reference when considering the Power Supply Efficiency Requirements for External Power Supplies?*

The current version of the ENERGY STAR EPS Specification is Version 1.1. For computer using external power supplies to be qualified under the Version 4.0 Computer Specification, the external power supplies sourced for use with these products must meet the no-load and active mode efficiency levels provided in the ENERGY STAR EPS Specification.

- *What are the qualification criteria for power supplies used in systems sold to markets with different input voltages/frequencies?*

For a computer to be qualified in a particular market, the power supply sourced shall meet appropriate Power Supply Efficiency Requirements at the input voltage and frequency for that market. For example, the internal power supply in a desktop computer marketed for sale in Europe would need to meet the 80% minimum efficiency at 20%, 50%, and 100% of rated output and Power Factor > 0.9 at 100% of rated output when tested at 230V AC / 50 Hz.

- *ENERGY STAR allows for qualification of products in markets with 100V input voltage in addition to 115V and 230V. However, the Internal Power Supply Efficiency Test Protocol calls for products to be*

tested at 115V and 230V with no option of 100V. How should power supplies intended for markets with 100V input power be tested to ensure compliance with the Computers Eligibility Criteria?

EPA will provide a reply to this question in a near-term but subsequent mailing as the Agency continues to consider this question.

EPEAT and ENERGY STAR Computers

- *EPEAT allows extra points for early adoption of ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 requirements. Will ENERGY STAR allow for qualification prior to July 20, 2007?*

ENERGY STAR will not qualify products under Version 4.0 prior to July 20, 2007. However, manufacturers seeking early adoption credits under EPEAT will be permitted to test their product according to the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 test procedures and conditions and self certify to EPEAT that their product meets the Version 4.0. The manufacturer bears all risk associated with asserting that the product meets the ENERGY STAR 4.0 requirements.

- *The EPEAT registry reflects qualified models. Will EPEAT make clear if configurations within a model family do not meet ENERGY STAR Version 4.0?*

The EPEAT registry includes an 'exemptions' field for each listed product (note: the field name is under revision). Manufacturers are expected to note in this field information about non qualifying configurations. Purchasers are also being encouraged to review this field before selecting an EPEAT product.

- *Will products qualified under the 3.0 ENERGY STAR Computer Requirements be dropped off of the EPEAT registry if they cannot meet the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 requirements beginning July 20, 2007?*

Products qualified under Version 3.0 and registered with EPEAT will be allowed to remain on the EPEAT registry for 6 months following the effective date for Version 4.0. However, beginning July 20, 2007, all products newly seeking EPEAT registration must meet ENERGY STAR Version 4.0. As of January 2008, if the Green Electronics Council has not received notification from the EPEAT subscriber that their product now meets Energy Star 4.0, the product will be removed from the EPEAT Product Registry.