

ENERGY STAR® Product Development Update Spring 2008

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 research, 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" on the right navigation bar 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

On April 1, 2008, DOE released the final criteria for several classes of high efficiency water heaters, including solar, electric heat pump, gas condensing, high-performance gas storage, and gas tankless. The effective date for the new criteria is January 1, 2009.

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Clothes Washers

On March 7, 2008, DOE released final criteria for residential and residential-style commercial clothes washers. The new criteria have two effective dates. On July 1, 2009, the criteria change to a minimum Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.8 (from the current minimum MEF of 1.72) and a maximum Water Factor (WF) of 7.5 (from the current maximum WF of 8.0). On January 1, 2011, the criteria change to a minimum MEF of 2.0 and a maximum WF of 6.0.

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Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers

On February 14, 2008, EPA released the Draft 1 Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers specification. The Draft includes proposed requirements for transparent doors in addition to solid doors.

An online stakeholder meeting was held on February 28, 2007 to present an overview of the specification revision process, provide details on the data analysis, and address stakeholder questions. Comments and additional data concerning Draft 1 were due to EPA by April 10, 2008. As a result of limited response by stakeholders, EPA did not issue a Draft 2 of the Version 2.0 specification during the week of May 5, 2008 as previously scheduled. In lieu of a Draft 2 specification, and with the intent of ensuring productive discussion at the stakeholder meeting on May 19, 2008 at the National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show in Chicago, a memo was distributed which served to outline a list of issues for which EPA is looking for direct feedback from stakeholders during the meeting.

Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers

EPA hosted an online stakeholder meeting on May 1 to provide manufacturers with an overview of the ENERGY STAR program and discuss efforts to develop a specification for laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers. Over the next several months, EPA will work with manufacturers to finalize testing conditions and collect energy performance data on these product types to determine viability for a specification.

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Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs)

On March 7, 2008, DOE released final criteria for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). The new criteria address Elevated Temperature Testing procedures for ENERGY STAR qualified CFL reflectors, efficacy, lifetime requirements and initiate the CFL Third Party Testing and Verification Program. The new criteria take effect on December 2, 2008.

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Computers

Development of Version 5.0 (previously referred to as Version 4.0 Tier 2) was officially kicked off on a December 6, 2007 online meeting with stakeholders. Version 5.0 will include an energy efficiency performance assessment (software benchmark) for computers, and separate requirements for Game Consoles, Small Servers, Workstations, and Thin Clients. Draft 1 of this specification was released on February 22, 2008 and an online meeting to discuss the draft was held on April 8, 2008. EPA released a document with definition updates made in response to stakeholder input on May 14, 2008. In addition, review of an EEcoMark beta will occur in May and data collection will be rolled out to stakeholders upon availability of EEcoMark in June.

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Dishwashers: Residential

On January 1, 2007, new ENERGY STAR dishwasher criteria went into effect. DOE is currently completing the preliminary market analysis for the next criteria revision. The analysis is expected to be released in July 2008. A comment period will follow and the final criteria is expected to be released in the late summer or early fall of 2008 with an effective date of Summer 2009.

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External Power Supplies

On April 23, 2008, EPA released the Final Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR specification for External Power Supplies (EPSs) to EPS partners and other interested stakeholders. The revised specification includes requirements for Active mode, No-Load mode, and Power Factor (only applicable to those units tested at 115 volts). The new Version 2.0 specification will take effect on November 1, 2008. Manufacturers will receive correspondence shortly with details on continuing their partnership under the new Version 2.0 specification.

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Furnaces

EPA is continuing to work toward finalizing the Version 2.1 furnace specification, which proposes a new 92% AFUE Tier 2 requirement for gas furnaces. Tier 2 requirements are scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 2008

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Griddles

EPA is continuing to discuss test procedures and cost effectiveness with griddle manufacturers. Based on these additional discussions and research, EPA will determine whether to develop an ENERGY STAR specification for this category.

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Ice Machines

The ARI 810 standard, which references ASHRAE 29, has been revised to specifically address flake and nugget ice machines. Once an ARI certification program has been developed, which is scheduled for later this year, EPA will reopen the ENERGY STAR specification to determine whether levels can be developed for these product types.

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Imaging Equipment

Tier 1 of the Version 1.0 imaging equipment specification took effect on April 1, 2007. EPA began work with stakeholders on Draft 1 Version 1.1 of this specification in November 2007, with an initial request for submission of non-qualifying product data. EPA analyzed: the data received from stakeholders, data in the current ENERGY STAR database, and market data in order to develop Draft 1 of the Version 1.1

specification, which was distributed on April 10, 2008. EPA hosted a stakeholder meeting in Washington, D.C. on May 7, 2008 to provide details on revisions to Draft 1 and the data analysis performed to date, and address stakeholder questions and concerns regarding the proposed changes. EPA plans to distribute Draft 2 on May 28, 2008 and a Final Draft on June 25, 2008. The Final Version 1.1 specification would be distributed to stakeholders on July 21, 2009 and have an effective date of April 1, 2009.

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Monitors

EPA is in the process of revising the Version 4.1 computer monitor specification by reviewing current requirements for monitors and also investigating broadening the scope of products covered to include professional displays and digital picture frames. Following careful review and analysis of the data received in response to two separate data requests made in December 2007 and March 2008 respectively, EPA intends to develop and distribute the Draft 1 Version 5.0 specification. This document will be available for stakeholder review in July 2008. A stakeholder meeting to discuss the Draft 1 specification will be scheduled in August 2008.

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Programmable Thermostats

EPA distributed the final Version 1.2 ENERGY STAR specification for programmable thermostats to stakeholders on February 1, 2008, with an immediate effective date. This new specification includes requirements for participation in a consumer education campaign and a sunset date of December 31, 2009 for the current performance requirements. It is EPA's intent to work with industry prior to this date on the development of innovative collaborative proposals for new performance requirements for programmable thermostats that ensure savings for consumers.

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Room Air Conditioners

In the summer of 2007, DOE held calls with all major room air conditioner manufacturers and the trade association exploring potential changes to the ENERGY STAR criteria. With an upcoming Federal standard rulemaking and a requirement for new refrigerant, it was determined that it would not be possible to change the ENERGY STAR criteria at this time. The ENERGY STAR criteria will likely change once the new Federal standard is announced with the same effective date.

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Servers

EPA hosted an online stakeholder meeting on April 1, 2008 to discuss comments received on the Draft 1 specification. Based on this discussion, EPA determined a need to solidify definitions and scope of the specification prior to moving forward with discussions around energy performance. Therefore, EPA released a revised Draft definitions document on May 1, 2008 for review and comment. EPA will be working with manufacturers to collect data on power supply efficiency and idle over the next few months in preparation for a Draft 2 release in late June. EPA will also host a stakeholder meeting in Seattle, WA on July 9, 2008 to discuss the Draft 2 document.

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Set-top Boxes

EPA released the final ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for set-top boxes and Service Providers on April 23, 2008. The documents contain proposed energy-efficiency criteria, detailed guidance on labeling qualified products, and requirements for service providers to commit to purchasing and deploying ENERGY STAR qualified set-top boxes. Service Providers may partner with ENERGY STAR immediately, while the effective date for the technical specification is January 1, 2009.

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Solid State Lighting Luminaires

On September 12, 2007, DOE released the final criteria for Solid State Lighting Luminaires, intended for general illumination. Solid-state lighting differs fundamentally from traditional lighting technologies in terms of materials, drivers, system architecture, controls, and photometric properties. A host of new test procedures and industry standards are being developed to accommodate these technical differences. In order to allow for the finalization of several test procedures, the effective date of these criteria will be September 30, 2008.

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Televisions

EPA distributed the final Version 3.0 TV products specification to stakeholders in early February 2008. The new specification will take effect on November 1, 2008. On May 5, 2008, EPA distributed correspondence to stakeholders with next steps for partnering under the new requirements and details on how to obtain an advance copy of IEC 62087, Ed. 2.0 for manufacturers interested in testing and qualifying their products under Version 3.0 earlier than November 1, 2008. EPA intends to work with retail, utility, and other partners to promote these more efficient products.

VCRs

EPA distributed correspondence on May 5, 2008 proposing to suspend the current VCR specification, effective November 1, 2008. This proposal was made due to the sharp decline in the number of VCR models submitted for qualification in recent years and the overall decline for projected VCR sales in the U.S. EPA also proposed that DVD/VCR models could continue to qualify, but under the Audio/DVD specification, effective November 1, 2008. EPA requested stakeholders to submit comments on both these proposals no later than May 16, 2008, and anticipates publishing a final decision in June 2008.

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Vent Fans

EPA is working with the Air Movement and Control Association (AMCA) and Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) to determine whether the AMCA standards and certification program should be referenced in the current ENERGY STAR specification.

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Windows, Doors, and Skylights

Due to increases in building codes and the market share of ENERGY STAR qualified windows, doors and skylights, DOE has begun the criteria analysis process for windows, doors, and skylights. Once additional background research is collected a stakeholder meeting will be held in Washington, DC in the summer of 2008.

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