

October 3rd, 2006

Ms. Katharine Kaplan Osdoba
EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
MC 6202J
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Kaplan Osdoba:

Position of Natural Resources Canada on proposed ENERGY STAR Digital-to-analog converter boxes (DTAs) Criteria

On behalf of the Natural Resources Canada's Office of Energy Efficiency, below are our comments on the proposed ENERGY STAR specification for Digital-to-analog converter boxes (DTAs).

Since 2001, the Office of Energy Efficiency, as part of an exchange of letters with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy, has been administering the ENERGY STAR Program for Canada. For the roster of products that Canada is supporting, the qualifying levels and specifications (with the exception of fenestration products) have been the same as those promoted in the US.

It is the position of this Office that the preferred approach for an ENERGY STAR specification for DTA be based on the modal approach.

The ENERGY STAR Program at EPA plans to finalize the specification in December 2006. We believe that the modal approach is already well understood by all interested stakeholders, and would allow interested stakeholders to reach an agreement within this timeline.

We also fully support the addition of an auto power-down feature that enables the DTA to automatically enter Standby Passive mode.

It should be noted that NRCan intends to issue a proposal to regulate DTAs in the next two (2) years, and is currently working through the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to develop a consensus-based technical standard which will be referenced that regulatory proposal. It is hoped that this technical standard could be used as the basis for an ENERGY STAR test method, to ensure that both voluntary and future regulatory regimes will be harmonized.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Best Regards,

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cc: Brian Killins, NRCan
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