



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: September 15, 2003

TO: ENERGY STAR[®] TV/VCR Partners and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Craig Hershberg, Product Manager

RE: Notice to Expand the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR TV/VCR Specification to Include DCR TVs with POD Slots

The purpose of this letter is to inform ENERGY STAR partners and other interested parties that EPA is amending the ENERGY STAR TV/VCR specification (Version 2.0). The current version can be found at <http://www.energystar.gov/library>. (Click on "Product Specifications" under "Manufacturers and Retailers" and then on "Home Electronics.") This amendment allows for the qualification of digital cable-ready TV receivers (DCR TVs) that incorporate a Point Of Deployment (POD) slot. Effective immediately, partners may qualify and label DCR TVs with POD slots that meet the energy-efficiency guidelines provided in Table 1.

Background

DCR TVs with POD slots are a new product that will be introduced to consumers for the first time in Fall 2003. The removable POD separates a DCR TV from the cable operator's proprietary conditional access system, thereby enabling portability of the host to other cable networks. This new product category comes as a result of the December 19, 2002 MOU between cable operators and TV manufacturers. DCR TVs with POD slots were not available or fully defined when the ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 specification took effect in July 2002.

DCR TVs incorporating a POD slot have two modes of operation: 1) without a POD installed, and 2) with a POD installed. All DCR TVs will be sold without a POD. After sale, the cable operator will provide the POD to the consumer, upon request. In effect, a DCR TV with a POD activated will function and deliver services similar to a separate TV and digital cable set-top box found today in many US households subscribing to cable.

Version 2.0 Eligibility Criteria with DCR TV Amendment

Table 1 from the Version 2.0 Eligibility Criteria has been amended to include a new category for DCR TVs with POD slots. Please note that additions are highlighted below in red text.

<i>Table 1: Energy-Efficiency Criteria for ENERGY STAR Qualified TVs, VCRs, TV/VCRs, TV/DVDs, VCR/DVDs, TV/VCR/DVDs, Television Monitors, and Component Television Units.</i>			
Product Category	Phase I Standby Mode (effective 7/1/02)	Phase II Standby Mode (effective 7/1/04)	Phase III Standby Mode (effective 7/1/05)
TV	≤ 3 Watts	Analog: ≤ 1 Watt *Digital: ≤ 3 Watts	≤ 1 Watt
VCR	≤ 4 Watts	≤ 1 Watt	≤ 1 Watt
Television Monitor	Analog: ≤ 1 Watt Digital: ≤ 3 Watts	—————→	≤ 1 Watt
Component Television Unit	≤ 3 Watts	—————→	≤ 1 Watt
TV/VCR Combination Unit	≤ 6 Watts	—————→	≤ 1 Watt
TV/DVD, VCR/DVD, and TV/VCR/DVD Combinations	≤ 4 Watts	—————→	≤ 1 Watt
DCR TVs with POD Slots	No POD Installed: ≤ 3 Watts POD Installed: ≤ 15 Watts	—————→	TBD

EPA Rationale for DCR TV Amendment

This specification change is being made for two reasons. First, where feasible, EPA strives to be flexible in amending its ENERGY STAR specifications to recognize new technologies and model designs with energy savings potential and consumer appeal. Second, through analysis and discussions with manufacturers, EPA feels that DCR TVs with POD slots can deliver energy savings by: 1) meeting the same specification as all other TVs without a POD installed, and 2) using up to 20% less energy in standby mode than an ENERGY STAR qualified TV and set-top box when a POD is installed.

Given that this is new technology not available yet in the marketplace, EPA was not able to follow its standard operating procedure, which allows for product metering and detailed technical analysis. As such, EPA has provided a Phase I specification, but not a Phase III specification. (Phase II is not applicable to this product category.) Accordingly, in 2004, EPA will assess the market and technology with the goal of later issuing a Phase III specification that recognizes approximately the top quartile of all models in terms of energy efficiency, consistent with ENERGY STAR guidelines.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support of ENERGY STAR. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 564-1251 or hershberg.craig@epa.gov. As with all program documents, this correspondence will be available on the Product Development portion of the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment for future reference.