



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

October 27, 2006

Dear ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Furnace Partner or Other Industry Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the Final ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Furnace specification. The attached specification outlines the energy efficiency performance, testing, and labeling requirements that qualifying oil and gas furnaces must meet in order to earn the ENERGY STAR. As a reminder, please note that this Version 2.0 specification finalizes changes to the performance requirements for oil furnaces. Work continues on adding a requirement for furnace fan efficiency. **The new Version 2.0 specification will go into effect starting today, October 27, 2006.**

The following change was made to the specification under Section 5: Effective Date prior to finalizing the document:

- **Tier II Effective Date** – There was some concern among industry members that the proposed 1-year transition to a more stringent Tier II 85% AFUE requirement for oil furnaces was too aggressive, based on the amount of time needed to assess the market response to ENERGY STAR qualified oil furnaces and redesign existing product lines to meet the new 85% AFUE level. In reviewing the most recent Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) equipment database, EPA found that less than 4% of oil furnace models currently listed meet the Tier II level. In an effort to balance market movement toward higher efficiencies with product availability and manufacturing requirements, EPA has moved the Tier II effective date to October 1, 2008. Following this upcoming heating season, EPA will conduct some follow-on research to determine if home builders in the Northeastern U.S. are specifying ENERGY STAR qualified oil furnaces as a result of the new 83% AFUE level. This information, in addition to ENERGY STAR shipment data and continuing analysis of the GAMA database, will help EPA to confirm whether there is movement in this market.

The new Tier II effective date will also allow EPA additional time to work with stakeholders to identify an appropriate test method, metric, and levels for furnace fan efficiency.

Your valuable feedback throughout the development process has been integral to the revisions made to this specification. Please note that EPA considers the Tier I specification to be final and has no further plans to revise it at this time. All stakeholder correspondence and versions of the

Draft specification can be viewed on the Revisions to Specifications Web page at:  
[www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment).

Existing ENERGY STAR furnace partners who wish to continue their partnership in the ENERGY STAR Furnace program must acknowledge the new Version 2.0 specification by updating and submitting the attached Commitment Form. Partners who wish to qualify oil furnace models as ENERGY STAR under the new specification should use the attached ENERGY STAR Qualified Product Information (QPI) Form. The Commitment Form and QPI Form can be sent to [furnaces@icfi.com](mailto:furnaces@icfi.com).

On behalf of EPA, I appreciate your participation in the development of this specification and look forward to working with you to determine a Tier II furnace fan efficiency requirement. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov) or (202) 343-9124.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Product Development