



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

October 10, 2006

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Furnace Partner or Other Industry Stakeholder:

With this letter, EPA is proposing final revised requirements for oil furnaces. We welcome your input on the attached **Final Draft** ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Furnace specification. This Final Draft addresses key comments received from stakeholders. EPA plans to finalize Tier I of this specification, which addresses the AFUE requirements for oil furnaces, by the end of this month. As such, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to provide any final comments on the specification to Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at rduff@icfi.com by **October 20, 2006**. Work will continue to refine the requirements for furnace fans over the coming months.

The following key elements of the specification have either been revised or retained in response to stakeholder feedback. More details regarding EPA's rationale for proposing these Final Draft requirements are included in note boxes throughout the document.

- **Maximum input capacity** – This maximum value has been revised to match the requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 103-1993 and DOE 10 CFR Part 430, Appendix N (225,000 Btu per hour).
- **Tier I oil furnace 83% AFUE requirement** – EPA is retaining the Tier I 83% AFUE requirement for oil furnaces. This new level will provide customers with more energy-efficient options and potentially help demonstrate demand for these products which could encourage this market to move toward even more efficient technologies. This Tier I requirement will go into effect on October 27, 2006.
- **New Tier II oil furnace 85% AFUE requirement** – To encourage continued movement in the marketplace toward high efficiency technologies, EPA is proposing a Tier II 85% AFUE requirement for oil furnaces, effective October 1, 2007.
- **Gas furnace 90% AFUE requirement** – EPA received a request to consider separate gas furnace AFUE requirements for models sold in northern and southern climates. Given that ENERGY STAR is a national program, going to a regional requirement would add significant complications. In the absence of a more compelling need, EPA cannot justify the additional program administration costs and increased burden on manufacturers that would result.

- **Tier II furnace fan efficiency requirement** – Work to develop furnace fan efficiency requirements will continue and will be finalized in a subsequent revision of this specification once an appropriate approach and level is vetted with stakeholders.

The exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site unless the submitter requests that their comments remain confidential. If you support the Final Draft Version 2.0 specification, please state this in writing or via email. It is equally important that EPA understand which portions of the draft specification meet with stakeholder approval, in addition to identifying the sections that may need further revision.

To track EPA’s progress in revising the ENERGY STAR specification for furnaces, visit the Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment and click on “Revisions to Existing Product Specifications” on the right navigation bar.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at (202) 343-9124 or via e-mail at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov.

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 final letter.

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Product Development