

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 19, 2004

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Bottled Water Cooler Partner:

EPA has received a number of requests from manufacturers to consider including bottled water coolers with refrigerated compartments in the ENERGY STAR Bottled Water Cooler specification. After careful consideration, EPA has decided to allow this product type to qualify as long as it meets the requirements outlined in the attached Version 1.1 Eligibility Criteria. The following items explain the changes applied to the specification.

Clarification to Section 1: Definitions

An eligible bottled water cooler with a refrigerated compartment, or “compartment-type bottled water cooler”, is defined as follows:

[new text added to specification]

B. Compartment-Type Bottled Water Cooler – A bottled water cooler which, in addition to the primary function of cooling and dispensing potable water, includes a refrigerated compartment with or without provisions for making ice.

This definition is taken from the Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Institute (ARI) 2002 Standard 1010 for Self-Contained Mechanically-Refrigerated Drinking-Water Coolers. Copies of this standard may be obtained from ARI by visiting their Web site at www.ari.org. EPA has also made a minor clarification to the definition of a bottled water cooler, below:

[new text added to specification]

A. Bottled Water Cooler – A freestanding device that *consumes energy and dispenses* water from removable 4- to 5-gallon plastic bottles commonly positioned on top of the unit.

This definition now clearly excludes non-electric bottled-water dispensers from the ENERGY STAR specification.

Clarification to Section 3: Energy Efficiency Specifications for Qualifying Products

Eligible compartment-type bottled water-coolers must meet the existing ENERGY STAR performance requirements for stand-alone bottled water coolers to earn the ENERGY STAR. Depending on the base water cooler’s primary design, compartment-type bottled water coolers

will be required to meet the levels set forth for one of the three following categories: Cold-Only, Cook-and-Cold, and Hot-and-Cold.

Clarification to Section 4: Test Criteria

All bottled water coolers must continue to be tested to the test procedure outlined in Section 4 of the ENERGY STAR Eligibility Criteria. However, in lieu of a specific test procedure for the refrigerated compartment, EPA has adopted the test conditions outlined in ARI Standard 1010; specifically, Table 1 – Standard Rating Conditions. The following requirement has been added to Section 4 for guidance when testing compartment-type bottled water coolers for ENERGY STAR qualification:

[new text added to specification]

I. Compartment Temperature: If the unit being tested is a compartment-type bottled water cooler, during the test, there shall be no melting of ice, nor shall the average temperature exceed 46.0° F [7.8° C] in the refrigerated compartment.

Effective immediately, all bottled water coolers must meet the requirements set forth in the attached Version 1.1 specification to qualify as ENERGY STAR. During the review process EPA received a number of comments that were outside the scope of the intended clarification. Based on these comments, EPA may decide to initiate additional research next year in support of future potential specification revisions.

All materials related to the drafting and release of this clarification will be available on the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Please contact me at (202) 343-9019 or at fanara.andrew@epa.gov if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Andrew Fanara
EPA Program Manager