

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

October 23, 2006

Dear Computer Manufacturer, ENERGY STAR[®] Partner, or Other Interested Party:

I am pleased to inform you that the Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR specification for computer equipment has been finalized and will take effect on July 20, 2007, pending adoption by the European Union. Your valuable feedback throughout the development process has been integral to the design of the specification. Stakeholder feedback not marked as confidential and all Draft versions of the specification can be viewed on the *Revisions to Existing Product Specifications in Development* Web page at: www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

Enclosed, you will find the Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments and Eligibility Criteria for computer equipment. Also attached is the dataset on which EPA based the levels included in this specification. Please note that ENERGY STAR qualification is not automatically granted for the life of the product model as previously allowed under earlier versions of the specification. To carry the ENERGY STAR mark, a product model must meet the version of the ENERGY STAR specification in effect on the model's date of manufacture.

Based on careful consideration of stakeholder feedback, the following changes are reflected in the final specification:

Partner Commitments

- Numerous stakeholders commented on sales channels involving third party reconfiguration of qualified products following their original manufacture date. To maintain the integrity of the ENERGY STAR mark, EPA has added language to the Partner Commitments requiring these third party vendors to ensure that these products still meet the criteria in order to continue to sell them as ENERGY STAR. EPA looks forward to working cooperatively with manufacturing partners to reach out to resellers that make such alterations.
- Based on comments from EPA's international partners and other stakeholders, EPA has moved U.S.-specific parts of the User Information Requirements on Power Management to the Partner Commitments section of the specification. This change will ensure that all parts of the Eligibility Criteria will remain relevant for international use.

Eligibility Criteria

- The notebook Idle level for Category B systems has been increased from 20 watts to 22 watts. This change was made after a stakeholder comment revealed that four notebooks were mischaracterized in the dataset, thereby lowering the qualification rate for Category B notebooks. The change was also made in response to stakeholder concern that the previous level was too challenging for notebooks with advanced functionality and mobile type workstations. With this new 22 watt level, highly configured notebooks, such as those with TV tuners, are expected to have a higher rate of qualification. The notebook qualification rate based on the dataset is now 26.9% with an overall qualification rate (desktops and notebooks) of 24.4%.
- Language was added to show EPA's interest in helping to develop an industry standard for direct packet filters for Wake on LAN (WOL). In the absence of industry standard configurations, manufacturers may provide their direct packet filters to EPA for posting to EPA's Website. Such steps are intended to stimulate the discussion and development of a standard.
- Power management language was clarified to indicate that computers must lower any active 1 GB/s Ethernet link when transitioning to Sleep or Standby. This revised wording replaces the requirement that computers go to the lowest link speed supported. Conversations with stakeholders made clear that different NICs will typically reduce the link rate to either 10 MB/s or 100 MB/s, and that either setting will save significant energy over an active 1 GB/s link.
- Language was added to clarify the meaning of full network connectivity and to indicate that systems maintaining full network connectivity in Sleep may qualify with the WOL power adder for Sleep.

Test Conditions

- Language was added to make clear that, in order to track real world Idle conditions as closely as possible, the Idle test may be performed on a system which has already gone through an initial boot where tasks such as user configuration, automatic operating system configuration, and full hard drive indexing have occurred.
- Language indicating that any additional management services capabilities may be tested in a non-active, pre-provisioned state, when the end user completes final provisioning and activation onsite, has been added.
- The link for the SPECviewperf[®] benchmark in the test procedure for the maximum power test has been updated. It has also been indicated that version 9.x or higher should be used and that manufacturers must report which version was used for the test.

After many iterations of this specification, including supporting update documents, and active discussions with stakeholders, EPA considers the Final Draft specification language to be well vetted. As a result, EPA received a number of comments on the Final Draft which, after careful consideration, did not result in a change to the specification text. These comments and an explanation of EPA's rationale for not including them in the specification are included in the attached Comment Response Document.

Of additional interest to partners is that EPA, in an effort to maintain the value of the ENERGY STAR mark and ensure a level playing field among partners, will give high priority to testing products qualified under this specification as a part of our ongoing verification testing.

In the coming months, EPA will provide all stakeholders with separate instructions that explain how to become, or continue, as an ENERGY STAR partner for computers. The instructions that will be provided at that time will include the Partnership Agreement, Commitment Form, and an outline of the data that manufacturers will need to report in the future for individual product qualification. Once this specification is in effect on July 20, 2007, a manufacturer must do two things to promote any products as ENERGY STAR qualified. The manufacturer must first sign the umbrella ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement. Next, the manufacturer must qualify products under Version 4.0 by **submitting qualifying product data for EPA review via the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool at www.energystar.gov/ops**. In early 2007, EPA will work with ENERGY STAR partners to provide access to OPS for this purpose. Manufacturers who fail to sign a Partnership Agreement by **July 19, 2007**, will be removed from the ENERGY STAR Partner List. If your company has already signed an umbrella Partnership Agreement, then you will only be required to complete a new commitment form.

EPA wishes to express its sincere gratitude to all stakeholders in North America, Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world, who provided feedback during the computer specification revision process. On behalf of EPA, I appreciate your participation in the development of this specification and look forward to working with each of you as you qualify and market your energy-efficient computer equipment. If you have any questions or concerns about the specification or partnership process, please feel free to contact me at +1-(202)-343-9120 or osdoba.katharine@epa.gov.

Thank you for your continued efforts and support of ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,



Katharine Kaplan Osdoba
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment

Enclosed:

- Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Computers – FINAL Pending Adoption by the European Union
- Comment Response Document
- Final Computer Specification Dataset