

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 2, 2015

Dear ENERGY STAR® Commercial Steam Cooker Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

With the letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is formalizing the date by which all steam cookers must be third-party certified to remain eligible for the ENERGY STAR. In addition, the Agency is pleased to announce a pilot program for Component Inspection of ENERGY STAR Commercial Steam Cookers to test a potential alternative to ENERGY STAR verification testing.

Third-Party Certification of Legacy Products

As indicated in August 2014, EPA will be completing the transition to third-party certification by requiring the certification of steam cooker products not previously certified (i.e. those qualified for the program prior to the imposition of third-party certification in 2011). Legacy products that have been verified since 2011 may use the test reports from verification testing for purposes of certification. **All legacy products must be certified by December 31, 2015 to maintain ENERGY STAR qualification.**

Component Inspection Pilot

In 2015, EPA will begin working with certification bodies (CBs) who want to offer this option and partners who want to fulfill their verification obligations in 2016 using this component inspection approach. EPA would like to thank the stakeholders who invested time and effort over the past many months to help develop the requirements for this pilot program.

The attached pilot program description includes modified inspection requirements that better align with procedures in place for safety certification inspections to address stakeholder concern about the feasibility of reviewing every certified model during each factory visit. Stakeholders supported the list of critical components identified in an Energy File Report for electric, boiler-less steamers. Applying what was learned from the development of critical components for electric, boiler-less steamers, EPA has expanded the energy file report to now also identify the critical components for gas and boiler-based steamers. Finally there was one concern regarding the transferability of this approach to other products such as commercial refrigeration equipment due to concerns about the impact of the manufacturing process on energy consumption. While EPA and stakeholders are confident that any changes in energy efficiency for steam cookers will be identifiable based on a component inspection due to the limited tooling and configurability of these products, this concern will need to be addressed to the extent EPA considers this approach for other products.

This pilot is intended to provide EPA and partners with better information about the feasibility and usefulness of this approach for steam cookers. EPA sees this as an opportunity to test this approach and welcomes comments and questions from all participants throughout the course of the pilot. EPA will evaluate this pilot based on both the ability of CBs to successfully inspect products as well as stakeholder feedback on the long-term feasibility of this approach. Upon conclusion of the pilot program, EPA will report out findings and determine next steps.

Please note that this pilot is completely optional. CBs and partners interested in participating in this pilot should notify EPA at commercialsteamcookers@energystar.gov as soon as possible regarding their plans to certify products under the pilot component inspection approach. For any questions related to this pilot, please contact me at (202) 343- 9019 and vokes.kathleen@epa.gov or Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (202) 862-1226 and adam.spitz@icfi.com. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Vokes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kathleen Vokes,
ENERGY STAR Program Integrity