

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 9, 2010

Dear Battery Charging Systems Partners, Battery Charger Stakeholders and Other Interested Parties:

Effective today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the revision of the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR[®] specification for Battery Charging Systems (BCS). Through this specification development process, EPA will both assess new opportunities for increased product efficiency and the potential to address expanded product categories in the residential and commercial marketplace. As a key stakeholder, EPA invites your participation in the development of an appropriate test procedure(s) and performance requirements for battery chargers.

ENERGY STAR Background

Due to the potential expansion of the BCS specification, there are many manufacturers who will be new to the ENERGY STAR specification development process. Following is a brief introduction to the program:

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products. Manufacturers that design and qualify their products according to the ENERGY STAR specification are able to use the label as a marketing tool to highlight these products for their customers. To date:

- Nearly 3,000 manufacturers are partnering with ENERGY STAR,
- More than 40,000 product models carry the ENERGY STAR label across more than 60 product categories,
- More than 75% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR label,
- Consumers have purchased about 3.0 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products, and
- Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2009 to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 30 million cars -- while saving nearly \$17 billion on utility bills.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to visit www.energystar.gov to learn more.

Next Steps for BCS

The ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 BCS specification took effect in January 2006. It was designed to provide a complementary specification to the ENERGY STAR external power supply (EPS) requirements and to quickly deliver significant energy savings by focusing on a specific subset of

consumer products with BCSs. While EPA conducted a thorough analysis of BCSs in power tools and small household appliances, it is important to note that the scope of products covered was **intentionally not exhaustive** and thus did not address many products that utilize battery chargers (e.g., wheelchairs, forklifts, and other high-wattage battery chargers). In all relevant program correspondence, EPA reiterated its long-term interest in addressing active/charge mode as well as broader product coverage and its intention to follow and support research in this area.

With this BCS specification revision, EPA has four noteworthy goals:

- Expand the scope of products covered. As such, EPA will actively solicit participation and input from stakeholders new to ENERGY STAR (such as manufacturers of large battery chargers typically used in forklifts and electric carts) and existing partners with products currently covered under other specifications (such as mobile phone manufacturers who have traditionally partnered with ENERGY STAR via the End-Use Products with ENERGY STAR EPSs program).
- Address active/charge mode, which is consistent with the direction the Department of Energy (DOE) is taking in its battery charger standards work and is addressed in the “Energy Efficiency Battery Charger System Test Procedure” adopted by the California Energy Commission.
- Work closely with DOE on the development of a coordinated Federal test procedure for battery chargers, consistent with the new EPA/DOE Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Coordinate with other interested international governments to harmonize the test procedure(s) and performance metric, where feasible.

Over the coming months, EPA will engage product manufacturers and other interested parties to: 1) identify and define the types of equipment to be covered by a revised ENERGY STAR BCS specification; 2) determine appropriate means of testing the energy consumption of these products; 3) collect, review, and analyze energy efficiency performance data; and 4) propose product definitions, the technical approach for this product category, and efficiency levels in a series of draft documents for stakeholder review and comment.

The tentative BCS specification revision schedule includes the following milestones:

Milestones	Dates
Release specification revision announcement letter	March 2010
Coordinate with DOE on test procedure	Ongoing
Reach out to an extended group of battery charger stakeholders for residential and commercial applications	March/April 2010
Review available data and market research	March/April 2010
Issue Draft 1 specification for stakeholder comment	May 2010
Stakeholder conference call hosted by EPA	June 2010
Issue Draft 2 specification for stakeholder comment	July 2010
Stakeholder conference call hosted by EPA	August 2010
Issue Final Draft specification for stakeholder comment	October 2010
Issue Final Version 2.0 BCS specification	November 2010

Specification and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site. To track EPA's progress with the development of this specification, please visit the Product Development Web site at: www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment (click on "Revisions to Existing Specifications" and navigate to "Battery Charging Systems").

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA and stakeholders is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification revision process for BCS. If you know of others who may be interested in participating, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to batterychargers@energystar.gov.

Please direct any specific questions to Andrew Fanara, EPA, at Fanara.andrew@epa.gov or 206-553-6377 or Robin Clark, ICF International, at rclark@icfi.com or 202-862-1223.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fanara', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
US Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR for Battery Charging Systems