



**Most Efficient  
2012**  
www.energystar.gov

## Proposed Eligibility for Recognition Furnaces

### Scope

*Included products.* Non-weatherized residential gas furnaces (as defined below) are eligible for Most Efficient recognition in 2012.

**Residential Furnace:** A heating unit with a heat input rate of less than 225,000 Btu per hour whose function is the combustion of fossil fuel (natural gas, propane) for space heating with forced hot air. Unit must include burner(s), heat exchanger(s), blower(s) and connections to heating ducts. Unit may also provide hot water for domestic or other use.

*Excluded products.* The following products are not eligible for Most Efficient recognition in 2012:

- Furnaces intended for commercial installation and/or with a rating of 225,000 Btu per hour energy or higher
- Mobile home furnaces
- Weatherized gas furnaces
- Oil furnaces

### Recognition Criteria

1) Product must be ENERGY STAR qualified consistent with applicable ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments and the requirements set forth in the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements Product Specification Version 2.0. Product performance must be certified by an EPA-recognized certification body.

2) AFUE 97% or higher.

3) Furnaces must have communications, system status and automated configuration capability as defined below.

**System Controller:** A thermostat or other control device with a user interface, which can be located in conditioned space. It is strongly recommended, but not required, that the controller have access to outside temperature data and that it translate all diagnostic and service messages into plain text.

**Communications:** Units shall be able to participate in two-way communications with at least one system controller model that is available for sale.

**System status:** Units shall be able to transmit any fault codes which indicate a need for technician service to at least one system controller model that is available for sale. With this information, the control device is able to advise homeowners to call their service personnel.

**Automated configuration:** Units shall be able to send and receive information to at least one system controller model that is available for sale to automatically configure settings appropriate to the controlled equipment, such as airflow for heating and cooling. This may include prompting an installer

through configuration of HVAC system settings and desired comfort settings, and a test sequence at turn-on.

#### **Recognition Period**

Upon notification from an ENERGY STAR partner, EPA will add qualifying models to the 2011 Most Efficient product list for furnaces from January 1, 2012 through December 30, 2012. The 2012 Most Efficient designation may be used in association with models recognized during this period for as long as the model remains on the market.