



Part II: Verification and Challenge Testing

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Goals of Verification and Challenge Testing



- Ensure the process of third-party certification has effectively represented the energy savings claims of ENERGY STAR partners
- Allow for a fair process for partners to challenge the performance claims of competitors

Model Selection for Verification Testing



- Annually test a minimum of 10% of certified products in each category and included subtype
 - Category: Imaging.
 - Subtypes: copiers, digital duplicators, fax machines, mailing machines, multi-function devices, printers, scanners.
- Product Families
 - All members of family are subject to testing, but not more than one per round
- Private labelers
 - Brand A, B, and C are all one product for verification testing purposes

EPA Role in Verification Testing Model Selection



- “Approximately 50% of models shall be randomly selected...”
- Best interpreted as “at least 50%” In practice it could vary
 - Partners with routine failures can be subject to additional testing
 - Referrals from third parties such as consumer groups are accepted only at CB discretion
 - Referrals from EPA may be limited
- In the event of significant failures, EPA may request an increase in the number of models selected in subsequent years

Verification Testing Model Selection



- “The more recently a model has undergone verification or challenge testing, the less likely it should be randomly selected.”
 - EPA has not defined “less likely.”
 - Products can be removed entirely from the pool for a given amount of time, or simply rejected if it is randomly chosen, in favor of another random selection.

Verification Testing Model Selection



- **Information not included in QPL that can inform model selection:**
 - All relationships between products, including:
 - Base model and manufacturer for each privately labeled product
 - All privately labeled model numbers associated with each OEM product
 - Clear indication of which qualified products are OEM products and which are privately labeled products
 - All relationships between manufacturers not covered by OEM-PL relationship
 - e.g.: “ Acme submitted this product on behalf of Roadrunner”

Procurement of Units for Verification Testing



- Off-the-shelf procurement is favored
- EPA does not define “prohibitively expensive to purchase or transport...”
 - If a CB allows for warehouse or off-the-line procurement, it should be prepared to justify that choice.
- Partners are required to provide at least three locations where a product is available, EPA suggests this be included in product submissions for certification.

Preferred Locations for Verification Testing



- Verification must generally occur only at EPA-recognized **third party** labs.
- EPA-Recognized first party facilities are permissible **ONLY** when off-the-line testing is the only practical option, provided that:
 - CBs witness the test
 - CBs must be able to defend their decision to allow use of first party lab (as with procurement)

Re-evaluation of Products in the Event of Significant Changes



- CBs require partners to notify them of product changes
- CB is not required to re-test all changed products
 - The CB retains discretion to decide if changes warrant a re-test
- Notify EPA
 - If there is no change in status, on the normal upload schedule
 - If there is a change in status (product no longer meets ES requirements), within two business days

Challenge Testing



- CB must have a policy built into the contracts it signs with partners.
 - Challenges can be initiated by partners outside of your certification scheme
- CB must judge the legitimacy of a challenge claim
- CBs have discretion to establish the rules for challenge testing program
 - A “loser pays” scheme may be easiest

Challenge Testing



- “A challenge may be **initiated** only when the CB has conveyed details of the challenge to the challengee...”
- To ensure partners cannot influence the procurement process, EPA has defined “initiated” to mean **after** the unit has been procured.

Enforcement Threshold for Verification and Challenge Testing



- EPA will allow for a 5% enforcement threshold during verification testing
- If a product exceeds the EStar spec by 5% or more it will be considered a failure
 - Aligns with DOE procedures for appliances
 - Allows EPA to target resources on products that do not
- Only one “tier” or “stage” of testing is allowed
 - A failed test should not trigger a second round of testing

Reporting Failures to EPA



- Delisted products can simply be omitted upon a full refresh of the qualified products list
- However, all failures must also be reported via a product-specific report to EPA.
 - At present, EPA is developing a procedure for transmitting information related to products that can no longer qualify
 - CB will need to notify EPA within 2 business days of initial product failure

Questions?



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