



May 28, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR Partner,

As a long standing ENERGY STAR Partner, Market Forge Industries would like to weigh in on the latest changes being presented to the stakeholders. After attending this years NRA Show and subsequent meetings on this matter, I think we may be heading down a slippery slope with respect to how the tests are conducted or should I say, who is allowed to conduct the tests. I will only address our concerns as it relates to our listed products.

Market Forge Industries, Inc. has been at this game for several years and very pro-active in promoting the ENERGY STAR brand label. We have been in business for more than 100 plus years and I can absolutely state that we support verifiable test results. The biggest hang-up for us is going to be how the term “accredited” would be applied to our listings.



If we understand the changes being proposed properly, the definition of an “accredited lab” is going to be either a testing facility like UL, CSA, NSF or any other supporting agency or the Manufacturer of the product can have their lab certified to become accredited and perform these performance tests themselves. Let me explain our reasons for the flaws in this approach. Lets assume the following using the “accredited” path to getting listed.

AGENCY TESTING: (UL, CSA, NSF)

Having any one of these labs perform the testing required to meet the ENERGY STAR Criteria for steamers will be a huge learning curve at best. These organizations are not equipped or experienced enough to handle this process, especially in the time frame outlined at the NRA Show on Monday, May 24th, 2010. I know Market Forge Industries, Inc. would not want these agencies learning how to collect and process the data at our expense.

Conversely, it should be noted manufacturers have their products tested and inspected to the safety standards required for the applicable appliance. Once the product has been approved and listed, the listing agency schedules quarterly un-announced inspections as part of the follow up service to maintain the safety and integrity of the product being shipped to customers. If deficiencies are found at anytime during these inspections, a variance report is prepared and corrective action must be presented and accepted before that product can be shipped. Given these conditions and assurances of the design, existing 3rd party test results previously conducted should remain valid.

MANUFACTURER TESTING:

We believe every manufacturer should be allowed to conduct in-house performance tests on their own using the ASTM Standard Test Method for Performance for a given product classification. This path saves all partners involved, time and monies. However, there must be some method for verifying or certifying the results. I believe ASTM F26 Committee is working out a proposal on this matter that may create a more economic path to ENERGY STAR listing and labeling

3RD. PARTY or INDEPENDENT TESTING:

The use of facilities that are experienced in performance testing is the most honest and accurate path to labeling, however, the costs associated with this path will become very prohibitive for most manufactures. We do not believe the intent of this program was to try and exclude partners, but that may be the end result if the cost to become a partner is out of reach.

In closing, Market Forge Industries, Inc. understands the big picture with respect to the integrity of the ENERGY STAR label. We're sure testing a TV for instance is something that is easier to measure and the cost vs. reward is justifiable. With a commercial steamer, the cost vs. reward will be significantly harder to justify, especially if all currently listed products need to be retested.

One thing that should be realized is the effect ENERGY STAR has already had on commercial appliances, especially appliances that are being specified by industry Consultants (FCSI – Foodservice Consultants Society International), which can and has become very competitive. Look at the list of ENERGY STAR labeled products and how much it has grown over the past several years and you will begin to realize how important the label has become to our industry. An abrupt change in the process, like what is being proposed, will undermine all the good that has come out of the program over the past 8 years and more than likely will reduce the number of ENERGY STAR Partners that will be able to support the costs associated with the change.

Thinking about the ENERGY STAR Label, how many cooking appliances are ENERGY STAR rated in the domestic markets if any? Most of the products are demand side measured and rated accordingly like air conditioners, refrigerators and dishwashers to name a few. This should be considered when evaluating the hot side products portion of the commercial “cooking” market.

Market Forge Industries, Inc. would support 3rd party or independent testing as the one of the paths to labeling, but with some path that would allow for in-house testing as well. We do not believe the “accredited path is a wise choice because of its cost and limitations.

If you would like to discuss this matter in more detail, I will be more than happy to do so.

Regards,



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