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May 26, 2010

Attn: Ms. Kathleen Vokes
U.S. EPA / ENERGY STAR Program
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Vokes:

I am writing on behalf of the Perlick Corporation in response to the request for comments on the Draft Lab Requirements.

Perlick Corporation supports and recognizes the need to ensure the integrity of the ENERGY STAR brand as well as products with greater levels of energy efficiency. We fully support the ENERGY STAR program and the initiatives to help protect the environment and increase sustainability through the promotion of less energy usage.

Perlick Corporation is a small to midsize original equipment manufacturer of both Commercial Foodservice Equipment and Residential Appliances. On the Commercial Foodservice side we produce products that fall under the ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers as well as Commercial Dishwashers categories, on the Residential Appliances side we produce products that fall under the ENERGY STAR Refrigerator category and the ENERGY STAR Freezer category. We have products qualified in all four of the above listed categories. Perlick is a manufacturing facility that makes 90-95% of the products qualified for the ENERGY STAR program in a made-to-order environment, with distribution typically directly to a job site or customer. The qualified products are typically of relatively low unit volume/high model mix as compared to industries such as the consumer electronics or lighting industries.

Perlick Corporation is a participation member of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Data Acceptance Program (DAP), Client Test Data Program (CTDP), with a Technical Scope of Participation for the majority if not all of our safety testing requirements as well as commercial refrigeration performance for the products above. This means that our in-house laboratory facilities conform to the UL Data Acceptance Program which is based on ISO/IEC 17025:2005 quality system standard. In addition, UL conducts an annual assessment of us and our facilities/equipment etc. to maintain as participants in the program to the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirements to ensure our laboratory stays compliant with the requirements.



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In regards to the *DRAFT*, we would like clarification as to the meaning of “maintain accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025”, as we feel that by adding the ENERGY STAR test methods to a program like UL’s DAP, and allowing us to perform the testing in-house with the oversight provided by the UL DAP CTDP would provide the third party oversight you are trying to achieve, without taking away the flexibility needed by manufacturers like ourselves, to shorten the new product development timeframe and control the costs associated with keeping our products qualified with the ENERGY STAR programs. In addition, either through the UL Safety Files or through the UL Energy Verification Files in conjunction with the UL Follow-Up Services the continuous verification of qualified products can be maintained at the required intervals per the particular product category.

Additionally, we would like clarification as to what “Inter-laboratory Comparison Testing” means? As a manufacturer, we regularly review competitive products; however, rarely have the resources to run complete performance test programs to determine their compliance with performance and safety qualifications and listings. We generally assume that they are an ethically sound manufacturer; if not sooner or later it will catch up to them and cause them loss in sales and a poor reputation.

Finally, in regards to “documentation demonstrating the impartiality and freedom of laboratory management, etc”, we believe that our only way of providing this would be through our honesty and integrity as a long established manufacturer. In addition we feel with the oversight of a third party, such as Underwriters Laboratories’ DAP CTDP, you will accomplish this prerogative.

In conclusion, we feel that by leveraging the existing models for safety and NRCan Energy programs and adding the ENERGY STAR test methods to a program such as UL DAP CTDP, the groundwork is in place to achieve your goals of proper oversight of the ENERGY STAR brand.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Karl Krumbiegel".

Karl Krumbiegel
Project Engineer
Perlick Corporation