



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 2000

Dear Dehumidifier Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

EPA welcomes your input on the following *draft* specification for the ENERGY STAR[®] Residential Dehumidifier Program. This three-page document outlines the main criteria that manufacturers' products will need to meet in order to qualify for the ENERGY STAR label. **We encourage you to review the draft specification and provide comments by July 14, 2000.** Comments should be sent to me via e-mail at <mailto:Sanchez.Marla@epa.gov> or by phone at 202-564-1248.

While reviewing the draft specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of the ENERGY STAR Program is to recognize energy-efficient products in the market through the use of the ENERGY STAR label. **It is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify for the label.** EPA plans, however, to set an ENERGY STAR specification that, while challenging, provides manufacturers with appropriate incentives and lead-time to redesign their products. The initial draft specification seeks to recognize approximately 25 percent of the products currently in the market. For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will strive to comply over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices in the marketplace.

All industry comments will be reviewed and considered carefully during program development. The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of each ENERGY STAR Program. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide prompt feedback.

To ensure confidentiality when submitting comments, please mark all sensitive information as CBI (Confidential Business Information). Unless otherwise noted, all information will be treated as proprietary and confidential and will not be shared with others without prior consent.

In the coming months, EPA will gather industry feedback on this Program and issue additional draft specifications as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the product specification by late summer 2000. The final specification will be issued in a Partnership Agreement. The Agreement will provide effective dates for the Program, test procedures for manufacturers to determine compliance, ENERGY STAR logo use guidelines, product submittal forms, and other program information. To ensure a successful program, EPA would like interested parties to comment on all aspects of the Dehumidifier Program before the specification is finalized.

Approximately two years after the Program launch, EPA will thoroughly assess the impact of the original specification in order to evaluate the level at which its partners have performed. A Tier 2 set of specifications may be issued to recognize those manufacturers who have gone beyond the original energy-efficiency limits. Similar to Tier 1, the new criteria would be selected such that the top 25 percent of the market in terms of energy efficiency qualifies initially for the label. Models produced under the Tier 1 guidelines would be allowed to carry the ENERGY STAR label

until they are phased out of the market, assuming the manufacturer continues its participation in the program and the product model continues to meet the specifications under which it was originally qualified (i.e., new specifications would not apply retroactively to previously qualified products). Once the Tier 2 specifications took effect, models shipped on or after that date would be required to meet the new specifications in order to use the ENERGY STAR label.

I am available throughout the summer to meet with you and your colleagues to provide further explanation about the ENERGY STAR Program in general and to discuss comments on EPA's draft specification. If you are interested in meeting or setting up a conference call, please contact me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you during the next several months. For more information about ENERGY STAR and specifically the Dehumidifier Program, please visit our Web site at <http://www.energystar.gov> and click on "Products in Development."

Respectfully,

Marla Sanchez
EPA Program Manager
ENERGY STAR Dehumidifiers

Enclosure