

ENERGY STAR® Product Development Update Winter 2010

Provided below are updates on existing and potential ENERGY STAR qualified product categories currently being researched by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE). For more information on the status of EPA and DOE's activities, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Click on "Revisions to Existing Specifications" or "New Specifications in Development" for a list of product-specific Web pages. The EPA or DOE contact for each product category is also listed at the end of each status update for parties interested in further details.

Audio/Video

On November 16, 2009, EPA distributed the final Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/Video (AV) specification. New requirements include mandatory auto-power down (APD), On and Sleep mode power consumption limits, and minimum amplifier efficiency criteria for a wide range of products including home-theater-in-a-box, audio amplifiers, AV receivers, shelf systems, DVD and Blu-ray Disc players, and docking stations. Commercial AV products are also eligible to qualify for ENERGY STAR for the first time. The more inclusive and flexible specification will promote greater energy efficiency in today's diverse market for audio/video products. Tier 2 requirements are scheduled to take effect July 30, 2010 and Tier 3 requirements on March 30, 2012.

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Central Air Conditioners & Air-source Heat Pumps: Light Commercial

EPA released the final Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Light Commercial HVAC specification on December 1, 2009. The specification establishes minimum energy efficiency criteria for central air conditioners and air-source heat pumps rated below 240,000 Btu/h. The effective date for Tier 1 requirements is May 1, 2010. EPA plans to revisit this Version 2.0 specification and propose Tier 2 requirements to be effective on July 1, 2011 through an open stakeholder process beginning in 2010.

The final Version 2.0 specification incorporated stakeholder feedback from the Draft 2 and Final Draft documents that were distributed on June 12, 2009 and October 28, 2009, respectively.

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Computers: Desktops, Notebooks, Small-scale Servers, Thin Clients, Workstations, and Game Consoles

EPA is in the process of developing and finalizing requirements for Game Consoles as part of the Version 5.1 ENERGY STAR Computers specification. A final draft specification was distributed to stakeholders on November 6, 2009 for review. EPA held a conference call to discuss feedback on this document on December 21, 2009.

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Data Center Storage

EPA initiated a first round of voluntary testing of data center storage hardware systems in late December 2009. The data collection test procedure was developed with significant industry input and support, following an October 15, 2009 test procedure workshop and subsequent draft test procedure review and comment period. Data collected during this process will be used to inform further development of the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Data Center Storage specification. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010, in San Jose, CA.

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Fryers: Commercial

On December 2, 2009, EPA initiated a process to update the current Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Commercial Fryers specification. EPA undertook the revision of this specification to expand the scope of the existing fryer specification to include other popular size categories. Currently, the specification includes criteria for 15-inch models. EPA continues to look for opportunities to provide consumers with a broad range of energy-efficient qualified models in all popular sizes currently available in the market. EPA asked manufacturers and other stakeholders to provide EPA with performance data on non-qualified fryers, especially commercial fryers larger and smaller than 15 inches by February 19, 2010. Based on the data received, EPA will develop requirements in a Draft 1 Version 2.0 Commercial Fryer specification to be distributed in March 2010.

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Geothermal Heat Pumps

EPA finalized the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Geothermal Heat Pump (GHP) specification on December 1, 2009. EPA expanded the scope of the specification to address gaps in product coverage in the previous Version 2.0 specification. Tier 1, which went into effect on December 1, 2009, sets requirements for water-to-water GHPs, a category not previously covered by ENERGY STAR. Tier 2, effective January 1, 2011, requires more stringent levels for GHP categories already covered (water-to-air and direct geoechange GHPs). Tier 3, effective January 1, 2012, provides more stringent levels for water-to-water and water-to-air units.

The final Version 3.0 specification incorporated stakeholder feedback from the final draft document that was distributed on November 9, 2009.

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Heat/Energy Recovery Ventilators

On November 10, 2009, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) distributed the final draft Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Heat/Energy Recovery Ventilator Specification with a proposed Tier 1 effective date of January 1, 2010. At this stage, this specification will apply to Canada only; thus, no H/ERV will be permitted to be marketed or sold in any country except Canada as ENERGY STAR qualified. Questions regarding the specification may be directed to Brian Killins, NRCan, at Brian.Killins@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca.

Hot Food Holding Cabinets: Commercial

EPA hosted a Web-based stakeholder meeting on December 9, 2009 to gather stakeholder feedback on the revision to the current Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Commercial Hot Food Holding Cabinets (HFHC) specification. EPA initiated the process to revise the specification on November 16, 2009 due in part to high market share of ENERGY STAR qualified HFHCs and to minimum efficiency standards taking effect on January 1, 2012 that make current ENERGY STAR levels in the Version 1.0 specification mandatory for all HFHCs.

EPA expects to distribute a Draft 1 Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR HFHC specification in January 2010, followed shortly by a Web-based meeting to discuss the proposed changes and answer stakeholder questions.

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Programmable Thermostats

EPA distributed a Draft 1 Version 2.0 Revised Programmable Thermostat Specification for stakeholder review on October 29, 2009. EPA has been working closely with industry experts and other stakeholders to design and implement an improved ENERGY STAR specification that differentiates products and delivers energy savings. Stakeholder comments on the Draft 1 specification are available on the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site. EPA will inform stakeholders of next steps with this specification development process in January 2010.

The Version 1.2 ENERGY STAR Programmable Thermostat Specification was suspended on December 31, 2009. The ENERGY STAR mark is no longer available for this product category after this date.

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Refrigerators and Freezers: Laboratory Grade

EPA finalized the supplement to the ANSI/ASHRAE 72 test procedure for commercial refrigeration in late December 2009 and initiated a first round of voluntary testing of laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers. The test procedure was developed with significant industry input, following an August 5, 2009 online stakeholder meeting and subsequent draft test procedure review and comment period. Data collected during this process will be used to inform further development of the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Laboratory Grade Refrigeration specification.

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Residential Light Fixtures

EPA plans to begin development of a revised specification for Residential Light Fixtures in February 2010. The goal of this revision will be to integrate the RLF and SSL (solid state lighting) specifications into a single, technology-neutral, specification in terms of key criteria such as luminous efficacy and color. EPA will provide updates to stakeholders as the revision process begins in early 2010.

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Roofs

On August 13, 2009, EPA released an amendment to the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR specification for roof products. The Version 2.1 specification contains no changes to the existing program requirements but adds provisions for qualifying roof products through a Color Family program. This program allows partners to qualify related products without the required 3-year aged product testing by verifying the similarity in the reflective properties of specific colors of roof products.

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Servers

EPA commenced development of the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Computer Servers specification with the release of a preliminary draft specification and a subsequent stakeholder workshop in September 2009. EPA intends to expand upon the Version 1.0 specification by including reporting and/or energy performance requirements for servers during active modes of operation. EPA is working closely with Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC) to develop a server efficiency rating tool. The Version 2.0 specification will also include updates to the "rollover" requirements from Version 1.0 (power supply efficiency and power factor, data reporting, and data measurement/output), and will add blade servers to the scope of products covered by the program. EPA plans to release the next draft specification in January 2010. Version 2.0 requirements are planned to take effect in late 2010.

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Set-top Boxes

On December 3, 2009, EPA hosted a conference call to discuss its intention to revise the ENERGY STAR Set-top Box specification and service provider requirements in time for the January 1, 2011 Tier 2 effective date that was set during the Version 2.0 specification development process. EPA intends to expand the scope of the Set-top Box specification to include products with an internet protocol (IP) tuner that are sold outside of typical service provider channels, and will revisit proposed Tier 2 energy consumption requirements to assess their validity with regard to current market trends.

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Solid State Lighting Luminaires

On July 1, 2009, DOE released a second draft of the ENERGY STAR performance criteria, Version 1.2, for several lighting applications to be added to Category A for public review and comment. These applications include roadway and area lighting, parking garage luminaires, and "wall packs."

On December 3, 2009, DOE published the final criteria for integral LED lamps, which have an effective date of August 31, 2010. DOE had previously published revised criteria for ENERGY STAR Integral LED Lamps on September 18, 2009 for stakeholder review and comment.

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Televisions

On September 3, 2009, EPA released the final Versions 4.0 and 5.0 ENERGY STAR Television specifications. The Version 4.0 specification effective date is May 1, 2010, and the Version 5.0 effective date is May 1, 2012. To allow for additional time to develop a test procedure for measuring download acquisition mode (DAM), EPA has engaged in continued discussions with stakeholders in recent months. EPA intends to distribute a finalized DAM test procedure and updated specifications for stakeholder review and comment in January 2010, and is targeting February 2010 for finalization of the updated Version 4.0 and 5.0 specifications.

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Water Coolers

EPA is in the process of developing Draft 1 Version 1.2 ENERGY STAR specification for water coolers. The Draft will expand the definition of a water cooler to include point-of-use and other bottle-less devices, and will clarify that products must be tested at as-shipped conditions. EPA released Draft 1 for stakeholder review and comment on December 16, 2009.

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Recent ENERGY STAR Specification Effective Dates

ENERGY STAR Specification	Effective Date
Version 5.0 Computers	July 1, 2009
Residential Dishwashers	August 11, 2009
Version 2.1 Roofs	August 13, 2009
Version 5.0 Displays	October 30, 2009 (displays under 30 inches); January 30, 2010 (displays between 30 and 60 inches)
Version 2.0 Audio/Video – Tier 1	November 16, 2009
Version 3.0 Geothermal Heat Pumps – Tier 1	December 1, 2009
Version 2.0 Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers	January 1, 2010 (solid door models)
Version 1.0 Heat/Energy Recovery Ventilators –Tier 1	January 1, 2010 (proposed)
Version 4.0 Windows, Doors, and Skylights	January 4, 2010

Recent ENERGY STAR Specification Suspensions

Product Specification	Suspension Effective Date
Version 1.2 Programmable Thermostats	December 31, 2009