

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 11, 2004

Dear ENERGY STAR® Printer/Fax Partner:

Since 2002, EPA has been implementing the compliance testing initiative, which supports our efforts to ensure that the program delivers on all of its energy-efficiency promises. Today, I am writing to inform you that printers and fax machines have been selected for the next phase of testing.

Later this month, EPA will begin testing a sample of qualified printers and fax machines to verify compliance with the current ENERGY STAR specifications. The goal of this testing initiative is to identify potential compliance problems and set in motion a review process to ensure manufacturers take corrective measures as appropriate.

Partners whose product(s) have been selected for testing will be notified soon in writing. The notification letter will indicate the model(s) selected and the time frame for testing. F-Squared Laboratories, an independent laboratory located in Damascus, Maryland, will be conducting the testing for selected products.

Each model will be tested according to ENERGY STAR product testing guidelines. The guidelines for printers and fax machines can be found at <http://www.energystar.gov/library>. Click on "Product Specifications" under "Manufacturers and Retailers" and then on "Office Equipment."

Given that the printer and fax machine specifications are under revision and a new typical electricity consumption (TEC) energy-efficiency framework and test procedure is being considered among the potential options, EPA also plans to leverage its limited resources to conduct preliminary TEC testing at the same time. The purpose of this TEC testing will be to refine the procedure and gather feedback from an independent test lab. The data collected may not be used in future specification analysis if the procedure changes significantly or a different energy-efficiency framework is pursued.

Once testing is complete, partners will receive written notification of the compliance results for their products. Should a model fail to meet the ENERGY STAR specifications, the partner will have 30 days to submit information based on its own test data to verify that the model is in compliance with the current specifications. ENERGY STAR will remove the model in question from the qualifying product list *only* if the partner fails to adequately respond within the 30-day time frame, the partner's test data does not fulfill the ENERGY STAR requirements, or the partner acknowledges the product is mislabeled. The procedure for data submittal will be outlined in greater detail in a letter to all manufacturers who have specific products that have been selected for testing.

In closing, it is important to note that ENERGY STAR will continue to be a self-certification program, although EPA requires third-party test data for some product categories and reserves the right to request additional test data on a case-by-case basis. This compliance testing initiative does not replace industry-testing efforts; rather, it is designed to monitor the marketplace, protect EPA and partner investments in ENERGY STAR, and ensure that consumer confidence in ENERGY STAR is never compromised.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support of the ENERGY STAR compliance testing initiative. We are committed to maintaining open communication and dialogue with manufacturers and their representatives throughout the testing process. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please contact Andrew Fanara at (202) 343-9019 or Robin Clark with ICF Consulting at (202) 862-1223 or rclark@icfconsulting.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Bailey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Bailey, Chief
ENERGY STAR Labeling Branch
US EPA