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October 13, 2009

Dear HRV/ERV Stakeholders:

ENERGY STAR Specification for HRV/ERV

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are pleased to provide the attached Draft 3.0 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR specification for Heat Recovery Ventilators / Energy Recovery Ventilators (HRV/ERV). Comments received during and after the webinar on August 12, available for review by visiting the Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment and clicking on “New Specifications in Development,” have been considered. We thank those who have provided comments.

EPA and NRCan have discussed a number of issues and comments in developing the latest draft. Text boxes within the document provide rationale for questions received or changes that have been made. The points below provide a brief summary of these changes:

- Since the distribution of the Draft 2 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR H/ERV specification on February 26, 2009, EPA has been collaborating with NRCan in pursuit of a specification that would effectively deliver energy savings in Canada and throughout the United States. However, EPA has decided to postpone possible US eligibility under this specification until Tier 2 at the earliest. Given that the H/ERV market in the US remains small, EPA would like to take additional time to better understand whether and how to promote these products pursuant to a possible Tier 2 specification extending to the US. In addition, EPA anticipates Canada’s experience with this specification will provide EPA with insights that will allow tailoring of the program for the US market. At this time, EPA welcomes input from stakeholders intended to help EPA better understand the US market for H/ERVs.

In the meantime, this draft reflects the possible participation of the US under Tier 2. Language to that effect should be considered provisional.

- While Canadian requirements remain unchanged from previous drafts (products to be sold as ENERGY STAR qualified must meet fan efficacy requirements at 0°C (32°F), and be tested and meet SRE requirements at 0°C (32°F) and -25°C (-13°F)), under Tier 2, products may be able to qualify in up to three different climate zones, heating, neutral, and/or cooling. Provisionally, products to be sold in neutral zones will have to be tested and meet SRE requirements at 0°C (32°F), and products to be sold as ENERGY STAR qualified in cooling zones will have to be tested and meet SRE and TRE requirements at 0°C (32°F) and 35°C (95°F). Whether NRCan and EPA move forward with this zoned approach under Tier 2 will be determined as evidence is produced to justify such an approach.
- The specification has been revised to include sections that are standard in ENERGY STAR specifications, such as the Partner Commitments section.

- EPA and NRCan propose a capacity limit of 500 cfm to ensure that only residential products qualify. The value of 500 cfm was selected to be consistent with the ENERGY STAR Residential Ventilating Fans specification.
- To help avoid confusion in the marketplace and assist the end user or contractor to identify H/ERV models that are ENERGY STAR qualified for the climate zone in which the product will be used, this draft proposes the inclusion of a disclaimer label. Under Tier 1, this label will include the ENERGY STAR mark and note that the product is ENERGY STAR qualified only in Canada.
- This draft proposes a new section, Requirements of Organizations Certifying Products for ENERGY STAR Qualification, to clarify that NRCan and EPA have not granted exclusive rights to any organization to certify ENERGY STAR qualified products or products applying for ENERGY STAR qualification. At the same time, EPA has maintained the requirement on the part of the Partner to have its ENERGY STAR qualified products' ratings certified by an organization that regularly carries out verification and challenge testing.
- This draft proposes a new Tier 1 effective date of January 1, 2010.

In order to facilitate your review of this Draft 3 specification, the following documents will be posted to the H/ERV section of the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site:

- Draft 3 Version 1.0 H/ERV specification;
- Updated data set of models used to establish SRE and cfm/W levels for Draft 3.

An updated proposed timeline for the H/ERV specification development process is provided below:

October 26, 2009	–	Comments due on Draft 3 Version 1.0 H/ERV specification
November 10, 2009	–	Final Draft Version 1.0 H/ERV specification distributed to industry
November 24, 2009	–	Comments due on Final Draft Version 1.0 H/ERV specification
December 14, 2009	–	Final Version 1.0 H/ERV specification distributed to industry
January 1, 2010	–	Effective date of Version 1.0 H/ERV specification (Canada only)

Please note Draft 3.0 is currently formatted consistent with the US ENERGY STAR Program. Once final, NRCan will reformat the specification for use in Canada. For the duration of Tier 1, NRCan and EPA are proposing that the specification not be applicable to products sold in the US.

Once again, NRCan and EPA would appreciate receiving any further comments by October 23, 2009. As I will be away from work until October 23, in the interim please send your comments to Stéphane Leblanc at stleblan@nrcan.gc.ca (telephone: 613-947-2319). All comments should be considered public unless the submitter requests that his/her comments remain confidential.

Regards,

Brian Killins
Senior Standards Engineer
Office of Energy Efficiency

Natural Resources Canada

cc A. Fanara
J. Forgotson
P. Edwards
S. Leblanc