



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 8, 2007

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Furnace Partner or Other Industry Stakeholder:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) consideration of fan efficiency within the ENERGY STAR specification for residential furnace, propose a new draft Version 2.1 of the specification, and request comments on this proposal by June 21, 2007.

As you know, the current ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 Furnace specification includes a placeholder in Section 3, Energy-Efficiency Specifications, for determining furnace fan efficiency requirements for both gas and oil furnaces. Over the last few months, EPA has met with industry and efficiency program representatives to discuss the feasibility of developing furnace fan requirements prior to the Tier II October 1, 2008 effective date. These discussions indicate a need to delay the inclusion of these requirements until issues regarding test procedure accuracy and regional differences can be addressed. Moving forward, EPA will monitor efforts to revise the current test procedure and may revisit including furnace fan efficiency requirements in future versions of this specification.

At this time, EPA is proposing a new Tier II AFUE requirement for gas furnaces of 92% to become effective October 1, 2008. This proposal was presented to EPA by industry representatives as a viable revision to the current specification and is a means to ensure that manufacturers continue to innovate and bring more efficient models to market. According to the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) Product Certification Directory, approximately 19% of gas models listed, representing 46 manufacturers and/or brands, meet a minimum 92% AFUE requirement.

These proposed changes are reflected on page 4 of the attached **Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Version 2.1 Furnace specification**. Stakeholders should submit comments on this draft to Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at rduff@icfi.com **by June 21, 2007**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site unless the submitter requests that their comments remain confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to review this Version 2.1 specification. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at (202) 343-9124 or via e-mail at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Schmeltz".

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Product Development