

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 16, 2009

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the final Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/Video (AV) specification. This letter describes the Agency's final decisions regarding these new requirements and outlines the process for qualifying products under the new specification.

The new Version 2.0 specification establishes On mode and Sleep mode power consumption requirements, and requires that an Auto Power Down feature is enabled on all products by default. Minimum efficiency requirements have also been established for products that include audio amplifiers. Products that were previously excluded from participation in ENERGY STAR, including commercial AV products and docking stations, are able to qualify immediately under the Version 2.0 requirements. Consumer AV products that were previously eligible for qualification under the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/DVD program will transition immediately to Version 2.0 with the same qualification requirements that were in place under Version 1.0. Updated Tier 2 requirements for these products will take effect on July 30, 2010. More stringent Tier 3 qualification requirements for all eligible AV products will take effect on March 30, 2012.

AV products qualifying for ENERGY STAR under the Version 2.0 specification will provide consumers with energy savings of up to 60 percent when compared to non-qualified products.

The Version 2.0 Audio/Video specification was developed through a process that included release of a specification framework, three draft specifications plus supporting documents such as a proposal for audio amplification, four stakeholder meetings, and continuous input from stakeholders. The enclosed Comment Response document contains a summary of comments received in response to the final draft specification and an explanation of EPA's response in each case. Stakeholder comments, previous draft versions of the specification, and related materials are available for review the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs](http://www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs), under the link for "Audio/Video".

EPA is committed to tracking this market carefully and will revisit the Tier 3 levels proposed for March 2012 through an open stakeholder process.

Key changes to the Version 2.0 specification since the final draft are summarized below:

- **Networking / Control Protocols:** Based on input from stakeholders, EPA has broadened the networking definitions in the final draft specification to apply generically to all networking / control protocols. Accordingly, further clarification of qualification and test requirements for networking / control was added to the specification in Section 3.1.d and to the test procedure in Section 4.4.f. The On and Sleep mode power consumption limits for networking / control functions have been changed to 2 watts in the final specification. When Tier 3 limits take effect in 2012, this limit will be reduced to 1 watt.
- **Loss of Signal Definition:** Based on stakeholder suggestions, EPA has broadened the definition for loss of signal to allow manufacturers greater flexibility in determining the appropriate definition for their product.

## **Partnering Under the Version 2.0 Specification**

As of November 16, 2009, manufacturers wishing to join the ENERGY STAR Audio/Video program must join under the Version 2.0 Program Requirements.

Existing ENERGY STAR Partners: To continue your partnership with ENERGY STAR under Version 2.0, please complete and submit an updated Commitment Form, attached below. Check the box next to “Audio and Video Equipment” on page 1 to indicate your intent to partner in this product area. Existing partners must recommit to the Version 2.0 specification by December 1, 2009 to maintain uninterrupted partner status. Please send your completed Commitment Form to [join@energystar.gov](mailto:join@energystar.gov).

New ENERGY STAR Partners: Manufacturers that are not currently ENERGY STAR partners will need to complete and submit both a Partnership Agreement and a Commitment Form in a single Manufacturer Partnership Agreement Packet. This Partnership Agreement only needs to be signed once. Afterward, you may expand your partnership into additional product areas, as applicable, by submitting an updated Commitment Form.

The Partnership Agreement can be found on the ENERGY STAR Web site at [www.energystar.gov/join](http://www.energystar.gov/join). Click on “Manufacturers of ENERGY STAR Qualified Products.”

## **Qualifying Products for ENERGY STAR**

Tier 1: Consumer AV products that would have been eligible for qualification under the Version 1.0 Audio/DVD specification will be able to qualify to the same requirements under the Tier 1 Version 2.0 specification, which will be in effect from November 16, 2009 to July 29, 2010. The efficiency requirements have not changed for Consumer AV products in Tier 1. Partners must continue to submit products meeting the Consumer AV Product definition via the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool which can be accessed at: <https://www.energystar.gov/ops>.

All other AV products not previously eligible for qualification to the Version 1.0 specification must meet new qualification criteria found in the Version 2.0 specification. These products can be submitted for qualification by completing the attached Qualified Product Information (QPI) form and submitting to [AudioVideo@energystar.gov](mailto:AudioVideo@energystar.gov) for review.

Tier 2: All products with a date of manufacture on or after the applicable Tier 2 Version 2.0 effective date of July 30, 2010, must meet the Tier 2 Version 2.0 requirements in order to qualify for ENERGY STAR. The date of manufacture is specific to each unit and is the date (e.g., month and year) on which a unit is considered to be completely assembled. The Online Product Submittal tool will be revised to accommodate the requirements of the Version 2.0 specification and all products will be submitted via OPS. Further details on this transition will be distributed to stakeholders prior to the Tier 2 specification effective date.

### **Qualified Product Lists**

EPA anticipates that the first Version 2.0 Qualified Product list will be published on December 1, 2009 to allow partners sufficient time to submit new products for qualification under the Version 2.0 specification. EPA will publish two separate Qualified Product lists for the duration of Tier 1; a list of Consumer AV products submitted through the OPS tool, and a list of all other qualified AV products submitted via the Qualified Product Information form. After December 1, 2009, the Qualified Product list for Consumer AV products will continue to be updated on a bi-monthly basis. The Qualified Product list for all other AV products and other products new to the program will be updated weekly for the remainder of 2009.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your energy-efficient AV products. If you have any questions or concerns about the specification or partnership process, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9019 or [vokes.kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:vokes.kathleen@epa.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Vokes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathleen Vokes  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
ENERGY STAR for Audio/Video