

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 14, 2009

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Audio/Video Partner or Other Interested Party:

The ENERGY STAR specification for Audio/Video (AV) products (Version 2.0) became effective on November 16, 2009. One of the most important aspects of the new specification is the requirement that qualified AV products have the capability to automatically power down (APD) to a low power Sleep mode by default. There has recently been some confusion among Partners as to how to properly interpret the ENERGY STAR definition for APD. EPA is issuing this clarification to provide guidance on proper implementation of APD.

Section 1,B of the specification defines APD as "The capability to automatically switch a device from On mode to Sleep mode after a predetermined period of time (APD timing) has elapsed. APD timing begins when the following criteria have been met: (1) the device has ceased performance of all primary functions, or (2) the last user input has been received (e.g., remote control signal, volume adjustment)."

Partners have expressed concern that the "or" condition between the two criteria can be interpreted such that, for example, a DVD player would be required to automatically power down during active video playback from the disc if the user does not actuate the remote control.

With this clarification, EPA is confirming that contrary product behavior is not required for ENERGY STAR. The "or" condition is included to provide manufacturers with the flexibility to interpret the initiating criteria for APD in the manner most suitable for a particular AV product.

The specific intent of the requirement is that products power down when they are not in active use. By way of the DVD example provided above, the proper interpretation of the requirement is that the DVD player is by definition performing a primary function during active video playback from the disc; and thus is not required to APD for the duration of active video playback.

Please direct any additional questions to the ENERGY STAR Audio/Video mailbox at AudioVideo@energystar.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