

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 22, 2009

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 1 Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/Video specification (“Draft 1”). EPA is revising the ENERGY STAR specification for audio/video equipment to (1) set energy efficiency criteria for products that are currently covered by the ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 Audio/DVD specification, in order to ensure that the ENERGY STAR mark continues to represent the top performers in terms of energy efficiency; and (2) include energy efficiency criteria for a broader set of Audio/Video products not included in the previous Version 1.0 specification.

On February 10, 2009, EPA released a draft specification framework for the audio/video product category. An ENERGY STAR draft test procedure for audio/video was subsequently developed and released to the public on April 20, 2009. **As a reminder, test data for products to be considered for inclusion under the audio/video specification are due to the EPA no later than June 19, 2009.**

The Draft 1 specification included with this cover memo was informed by stakeholder feedback on both the framework and test procedure documents, along with EPA’s ongoing research and communication with industry participants. As noted in the specification, EPA plans to implement modal qualification criteria for both residential and commercial products. The basis for this approach is EPA’s understanding that the most significant energy savings will be achieved through the broad implementation of APD functionality and by setting limits on both ON mode and SLEEP mode power consumption. EPA will determine whether APD, ON mode, and SLEEP mode requirements are appropriate for specific products based on product data and feedback received from stakeholders. EPA is still open to considering a TEC approach for products that are in the ON mode a significant percentage of the time and that follow a consistent and predictable duty cycle. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback regarding which products might be appropriate to consider for TEC.

Key elements of the Draft 1 specification include:

- ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments and Performance for Special Distinction: Standard program commitments that define the roles and responsibilities of both the ENERGY STAR Partner and EPA in executing the ENERGY STAR program.
- Definitions: Definitions of key terms used throughout the document. The definitions in Draft 1 are largely similar to those that have been presented in previous audio/video documentation, with some minor revisions based on stakeholder feedback.
- Qualifying Products: Examples of products specifically included or excluded under the terms of the ENERGY STAR program requirements.

- Energy Efficiency Criteria: The framework in which modal limits will be articulated.
- Test Procedure: A reference to the draft audio/video test procedure (included as an Appendix).
- User Interface: A reference to best practices for the design of a user interface for consumer electronics products. The referenced standard may also be a valuable resource for the design of professional products.
- Effective Date & Future Specification Revisions: Language defining the rules for qualifying products under new and past versions of the ENERGY STAR program for audio/video products.

In-line with the draft program requirements you will find notes set off from the text in note boxes. These notes are used throughout the development of draft specifications to provide context and highlight topics on which EPA would like stakeholder feedback. Please pay special attention to these note boxes during your review of the document. As always, the exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Manufacturers are strongly encouraged to e-mail feedback on Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification to AudioVideo@energystar.gov by **June 19, 2009**.

EPA plans to host a conference call to discuss preliminary product testing results and stakeholder feedback on the Draft 1 specification during the week of **July 6, 2009**. Call-in information and an agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

To track EPA's progress in revising the specification for audio/video products, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs. Please direct any specific questions to Kathleen Vokes, EPA, at vokes.kathleen@epa.gov or Stephen Pantano, ICF International, at spantano@icfi.com.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



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