

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 10, 2009

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft Specification Framework Document for the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/Video specification revision. The purpose of this framework document is to share ideas on key elements of the revised specification and seek stakeholder feedback on EPA's proposed approach. EPA is also interested in feedback on the proposed schedule outlined below. **EPA asks for comments on the Draft Specification Framework Document and proposed schedule by March 3, 2009.**

The objectives of the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR specification for Audio/Video products are to: (1) set energy efficiency criteria for products that are currently covered by the ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 Audio/DVD specification to ensure 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 previously not included in the Version 1.0 specification.

To achieve these objectives, EPA proposes a tiered approach which first sets and makes effective Tier 1 energy efficiency criteria. The Tier 1 criteria will apply to products for which appropriate test procedures and adequate test data are available. EPA will subsequently develop Tier 2 energy efficiency criteria for products that require development of test procedures and gathering of additional test data.

The specification framework document includes the following key elements:

- Draft definitions for (1) products that are proposed for inclusion in the specification, (2) product modes of operation, and (3) testing terminology. The document also includes proposed definitions intended to clearly distinguish professional products from consumer products.
- A broad list of candidate products for inclusion in this specification. This list is intended to facilitate discussion. EPA fully expects that products could be added to or dropped from this list as EPA and stakeholders evaluate the ability to test products and the likely energy savings associated with each product type.
- A proposal for a structured approach to define efficiency requirements for products based on base functionality plus additional delivered functionality.
- A proposal to define applicability of either a Typical Energy Consumption (TEC) approach or a modal energy consumption approach to measure energy efficiency for a product, based on the availability of relevant test procedures and product usage patterns.
- A list of existing test procedures for Audio/Video products. EPA plans to distribute a proposal on an approach for data collection using existing and modified test procedures for products where possible. EPA is seeking assistance in identifying or creating test procedures for several products.

The following proposed schedule for the specification revision will allow EPA to set an effective date for Tier 1 in Spring 2010.

- Early February – EPA distributes Draft Specification Framework Document
- Mid February – EPA distributes proposal on test procedures and data collection for Tier 1 products
- Late February – EPA outlines data needs (allow 8 weeks for data collection)
- April – EPA and stakeholders continue discussions about definitions, energy efficiency criteria, and test procedures
- Late April – EPA collects and analyzes data for Tier 1
- Early May – EPA distributes Draft 1 (allow 4 weeks for stakeholder review)
- Late May – EPA finalizes scope of Tier 2 specification
- Mid June – EPA distributes Draft 2 (allow 4 weeks for stakeholder review)
- Late July – EPA distributes Draft Final (allow 2 weeks for stakeholder review)
- Mid August – EPA distributes Final Tier 1 specification

EPA proposes that Tier 1 specification criteria take effect immediately upon completion of the specification for products not currently covered by the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/DVD specification, and that Tier 1 criteria take effect in May, 2010 for products that are currently covered by the Version 1.0 specification. EPA plans to work with stakeholders to finalize Tier 2 specification criteria by Spring 2010.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the Draft Specification Framework Document and proposed schedule and send comments to AudioVideo@energystar.gov **no later than Tuesday, March 3, 2009.**

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program. If you have any questions regarding these documents, please feel free to contact me at vokes.kathleen@epa.gov or (202) 343-9019.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Vokes, EPA
ENERGY STAR Product Manager