



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

April 18, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR® Furnace Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is happy to share with you the attached Final Draft Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Furnace specification. EPA would like to acknowledge the many ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested substantial time and effort over the past several months to contribute detailed feedback to inform the specification development process.

Consistent with the previous draft furnace specification, this Final Draft retains the regional approach for AFUE requirements, with a 95 AFUE level for U.S. North and Canada and the current 90 AFUE level in U.S. South. EPA did revisit the cost effectiveness analysis taking into account various installation scenarios and new data from stakeholders and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Based on this analysis, EPA concludes that 95 AFUE units will provide good financial payback for many consumers in the colder regions. Because installation costs vary widely, state, local, and utility rebates will continue to be critical for some consumers.

The following key changes are reflected in this Final Draft specification:

- **Definitions.** Definitions of Furnace Fan Efficiency, Air Leakage and Heating Degree Days have been revised to provide better clarity.
- **Air Leakage.** Stakeholders expressed concern that the test standard proposed for Air Leakage is new and time may be needed to update products and test them to the standard. In order to ensure consumers have a variety of qualified product choices, the Air Leakage requirement effective date has been extended to February 1, 2013 (and will be published as a Version 4.0 specification).
- **Sampling Requirements.** References to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sampling requirements defined in 10 CFR 429 Subpart B have been added to make explicit the option to align qualification testing with DOE minimum standards.

In addition, note boxes throughout the Final Draft summarize and respond to stake holder comments on the Draft 2 specification.

In the interest of allowing sufficient transition time, EPA has adjusted the Version 3.0 effective date to February 1, 2012. A Version 4.0 Furnace specification, reflecting the addition of the air leakage requirements, will be effective February 1, 2013. Comments on this Final Draft should be submitted to furnaces@energystar.gov and will be accepted until **May 2, 2011**.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Furnace specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs.

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov or (202) 343-9375 and Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at smedepalli@icfi.com or (202) 862-1268. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program