

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

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Dear Structural Insulated Panel (SIP) Manufacturer or Interested Party:

In September of 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized new participation requirements for the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program for insulation products. You can find past Webinars explaining the overall changes to the program [here](#), as well as the Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR Launch Memo and Definitions and Testing Requirements Version 1.0 released on September 26, 2011.

During this revision process, several key issues regarding SIP products were raised, which have resulted in the exclusion of these products from the new scope of the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' program.

Reasons for the Exclusion of SIP Products

- A SIPs product is a structural system that incorporates insulation as a secondary item into an assembly for re-sale, and therefore does not fall into the scope of the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' program, which seeks to recognize primary insulation manufacturers.
- The currently available test procedures for measuring whole-wall thermal performance are not widely accepted by industry, nor are they consensus based standards (for example, ASTM). Also there are very few facilities available to perform the testing.
- Whole-wall thermal performance testing using existing research-based protocols are extremely cost prohibitive, and manufacturer stakeholders have not expressed interest in paying the high costs that would be required to perform the routine thermal testing of their products.

EPA will continue to monitor efforts to develop consensus test methods that are more affordable for the SIPS industry: http://www.ornl.gov/sci/roofs+walls/whole_wall/rvalue.html

Key Deadlines for Ending Product Labeling

Due to these issues, EPA reminds manufacturers that they will be required to end ENERGY STAR labeling of their SIP products by May 23, 2012. All manufacturers labeling SIP products must take the following actions:

- Stop printing any ENERGY STAR logo or graphic on any newly manufactured SIP products or newly printed marketing materials. Manufacturers may continue to use up existing products and materials that carry the label. Labeled products manufactured before May 23, 2012 do not have

to be disposed of. If a manufacturer has a large stockpile or warehouse of products that will not be sold or used by May 23, 2012, EPA suggests stopping the labeling of products immediately.

- Remove references to ENERGY STAR or ENERGY STAR qualified SIP products from all websites.
- Stop using the ENERGY STAR partner mark in reference to the company in marketing materials or on the web (Manufacturers who make other ENERGY STAR insulation products may continue to use the ENERGY STAR partner logo after May 23, 2012 only once they have met the new participation requirements).

NOTE: All insulation partners with the program are currently designated as "inactive" partners as of September 23, 2011, and therefore, are no longer listed in the public database of active partners.

ENERGY STAR Marketing Opportunities for SIP Products

Marketing the Cavity Insulation Material

SIP manufacturers can reference ENERGY STAR in cases where the cavity insulation product used in the SIP assembly is a certified Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR product. In this case, EPA will allow SIP manufacturers to advertise with the words "ENERGY STAR[®]" in text when referencing the foam (or other material) used in the SIP cavity. The brand name of the insulation used and the insulation manufacturer must be provided. The manufacturer must not claim that the entire SIP assembly is recognized by Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR, and may not use any ENERGY STAR logos, marks, or graphics.

Marketing the ENERGY STAR New Homes Program

The ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes Version 3 (Rev 5) National Program Requirements currently references SIP products as a way to meet the expanded thermal enclosure checklist and insulation values.

SIP manufacturers may promote this fact and use the words "ENERGY STAR[®]" in text referencing the ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes program. SIP manufacturers may not use any ENERGY STAR logos, marks, or graphics to promote their products since they are not individually certified.

Here is an example of acceptable language:

"The <SIP product> made by <manufacturer name> can be used to help meet the reduced thermal bridging requirements of the *ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes, Version 3, National Program Requirements*."

Please send any questions or requests for assistance to insulation@energystar.gov. We would gladly assist in reviewing materials that take advantage of the marketing opportunities outlined in this document.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Doug Anderson
EPA Project Manager
Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR