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In response to your request for comments in your March 2, 2006 email I have come up with several questions and comments concerning the Draft 2 specification for ENERGY STAR for Refrigerated Vending Machines, Rebuilt Machine Specification.

My first comment concerns the bullet point in Rachel Schmeltz's cover letter that "Rebuilt vending machines will be expected to meet both the energy consumption and low power mode requirements...." This requirement is also referenced in the Draft 2 document in the "Energy-Efficiency Specifications for Qualifying Product" section of the document. I question if it is really necessary to require the low power mode for refurbished machines because this may significantly decrease the number of machines that will be eligible for the Energy Star program. Many of the older machines use a mechanical cold control to control the refrigeration system. While it is possible to significantly reduce the power consumption of these machines by changing out lighting and refrigeration components, it is not possible to add the low power mode of operation without the installation of a new control board, electronic relays, and associated wiring harnesses to meet the low power mode requirement. This statement will mean that from a practical stand point, it may be cost prohibitive to refurbish many of the older machines with mechanical cold controls. I recommend that this requirement be removed for older mechanical cold control machines for refurbishment only.

Can you please give me some clarification on your intent as to who is considered an OEM? From the second paragraph of the DRAFT 2 document it looks to me like USA Technologies would be considered an OEM since USA Technologies, Inc. is the OEM of the VendingMiser and VM2iQ products and we sell our energy-efficient rebuild kit(s) to refurbishment centers for the installation of our product. It is our assumption that USA Technologies will submit the data for the machines that would be eligible to become Energy Star machines with the addition of our products and that the refurbishment centers will be responsible for labeling the refurbished machines as ENERGY STAR once all the work has been completed.

In a number of places the document refers to UL listing or equivalent. Does this mean a product that is UL Recognized or UL Classified is an acceptable component? Since the term UL Listed has very specific technical meaning, I would recommend changing the requirement to something like "That each component meets the applicable UL or equivalent safety requirements and that the components are Listed, Recognized, Classified, etc. as applicable."

Since the refurbishment standard will not be released until very near the start of or after the implementation of Tier II, I recommend that the implementation of Tier II power levels for refurbished machines be delayed for 18 months in order to give this program a chance to begin implementation before the more restrictive standard is enforced.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any clarification on any of the above items.

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