

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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: May 14, 2004

TO: ENERGY STAR[®] Set-top Box Partners and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Craig Hershberg, Product Manager

RE: Update on ENERGY STAR Specification for Set Top Boxes

The purpose of this notice is to respond to inquiries about the status of the ENERGY STAR Set Top Box specification.

Set Top Box Specification

- ENERGY STAR's Set Top Box (STB) product specification went into effect on January 1, 2001. The specification listed "Tier 1" energy efficiency criteria that took effect immediately, and included more ambitious "Tier 2" criteria slated to go into effect January 1, 2004.
- However, in June 2003, EPA extended Tier 1 of the STB specification criteria based on input from ENERGY STAR stakeholders, thereby delaying the Tier 2 criteria indefinitely. This specification change was made for two reasons. First, due to shifts in the market and other factors, the set-top box technology and marketplace have not progressed as originally envisioned when the specification was introduced in 2000. Second, it came to EPA's attention that it was necessary to review the Tier 2 specification and make appropriate adjustments to ensure the specification would be relevant (i.e., accurately reflect the most energy-efficient models on the market) when it takes effect.
- ENERGY STAR expects to revisit the original STB Tier 2 criteria in consultation with industry and other stakeholders. **EPA estimates a draft revised specification by Fall of 2004, and a final revision of the set-top box specification becoming effective in Summer, 2005. Tier 1 criteria will remain in effect until that time.** Communication between EPA and partners/stakeholders will be handled similarly to other ENERGY STAR specification development activities. EPA will post relevant information about set-top boxes, including draft specifications, meeting announcements, meeting summaries, written comments submitted by manufacturers and others, and other forms of communication on the Product Development portion of the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

If you have specific ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or by email at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. Thank you for your ongoing support of ENERGY STAR.