



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 2, 2005

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

On December 16, 2004, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) distributed a memorandum to stakeholders, informing them of EPA's intent to (i) suspend the ENERGY STAR specification for set-top boxes, and (ii) set a new specification for HDTV tuners and digital to analog converter boxes (DTAs)¹.

EPA wishes to thank those stakeholders who provided feedback on the above-mentioned proposals. After reviewing all comments received, **EPA has decided to suspend the current set-top box specification and develop a separate specification for *only* DTAs.**

A temporary suspension of the ENERGY STAR specification for set-top boxes entails the following:

- Set-top box manufacturers may no longer refer to themselves as ENERGY STAR partners;
- Set-top box products may no longer be qualified for ENERGY STAR;
- The ENERGY STAR Web site will no longer have listings available for qualified set-top boxes or the companies that manufacture them;
- Manufacturers will have to discontinue use of the ENERGY STAR mark on previously qualified models, related product literature, product packaging, and the manufacturer's Web site; and
- EPA will allow any set-top box models and related materials already bearing the ENERGY STAR mark to filter through the distribution channel.

A proposed timeline for the temporary suspension of the ENERGY STAR specification for set-top boxes and the development of a separate specification for DTAs follows:

- **February 2, 2005:** Manufacturers may no longer submit new set-top box models through the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool for ENERGY STAR qualification
- **February – May 2005:** EPA works with international stakeholders and manufacturers to develop a Draft 1 specification for DTAs
- **May 31, 2005:** ENERGY STAR product and partner lists for set-top boxes are removed from the ENERGY STAR Web site
- **May 31, 2005:** Manufacturers must discontinue (i) use of the ENERGY STAR mark on their previously qualified set-top box products and related collateral materials, and (ii) any references to themselves as ENERGY STAR partners for set-top boxes

¹ *DTA (Digital TV Adapter):* receives terrestrial (over the air) digital signals and converts them to an analog output suitable for analog TVs. Does not provide digital signal output, and thus does not work with a digital TV. The DTA category does not include converters that work with satellite or cable digital signals. Nor does it cover devices with multi-functionality such as a DVD player with digital to analog conversion capability.

- **June 15, 2005:** EPA releases a Draft 1 specification for DTAs, for review and comment

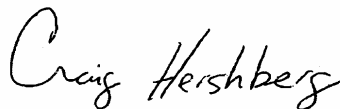
Please note that EPA has given manufacturers approximately four months to discontinue use of the ENERGY STAR mark on any previously qualified set-top box products and related collateral materials. During this transition time, EPA will continue to recognize ENERGY STAR qualified set-top boxes and their manufacturers on www.energystar.gov. However, at the end of this transition time, on May 31, 2005, manufacturers must cease using the ENERGY STAR mark on all previously qualified set-top box models.

It continues to be EPA's intent that when market conditions become more favorable for the development of a set-top box sleep mode — that will enable increased energy, carbon and monetary savings — a broader ENERGY STAR set-top box specification will be developed.

More correspondence will be forthcoming regarding the development of a specification for DTAs. In the interim, stakeholders are encouraged to submit any product, market, and/or test data that they have available on DTAs directly to me via e-mail, at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. If stakeholders would like to discuss any aspect of the temporary suspension of the ENERGY STAR specification for set-top boxes, please call me directly at (202) 343-9120.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support of ENERGY STAR.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Hershberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig Hershberg, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics and Office Equipment