



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: November 25, 2003

TO: ENERGY STAR[®] Telephony Partners and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Craig Hershberg, Product Manager

RE: Notice to Amend the ENERGY STAR Telephony Specification to Include Additional Handsets for Dual and/or Multi Handset Units

The purpose of this letter is to inform ENERGY STAR partners and other interested parties that EPA is considering an amendment to the ENERGY STAR Telephony specification (Version 1.0). The current version can be found at <http://www.energystar.gov/library>. (Click on "Product Specifications" under "Manufacturers and Retailers" and then on "Home Electronics.") This amendment would allow for the qualification of additional handsets, sold for use with Dual and/or Multi Handset capable telephones.

Background

Over the last year, several telephony manufacturers have approached the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and requested that additional handset products become eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR. The main base units for Dual and/or Multi Handset capable telephones have been able to qualify for ENERGY STAR since the Version 1.0 specification took effect, providing they meet the appropriate energy-efficiency requirements for cordless telephones or combination cordless telephone/answering machine units, and are not packaged with any additional handset products. However, to-date, there has been no specification for the additional handsets. These products consist of a handset and a charging cradle and only need to be connected to an electrical outlet, thus eliminating the need for multiple phone-jacks, when used with a Dual and/or Multi Handset capable telephone.

Proposed Specification for Additional Handsets

Based on test-data provided by manufacturers, and additional testing carried out by EPA and an independent testing laboratory, EPA proposes an energy-efficiency specification of 1.5 watts in standby mode (when the handset is not charging) for additional handsets, as part of the Tier 1 specification for telephony. When additional handsets are packaged with a Dual and/or Multi Handset capable telephone, both products must individually meet the appropriate energy-efficiency specifications in order for the Dual and/or Multi Handset capable telephone system to earn the ENERGY STAR. Manufacturers are invited to provide feedback on this proposed specification **no later than December 10, 2003**. Please direct all feedback to me via e-mail at hershberg.craig@epa.gov or via telephone at (202) 343-9120. EPA is hopeful that this amendment will be finalized prior to the 2004 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), so manufacturers may start to label their qualifying handsets prior to the show.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support of ENERGY STAR. As with all program documents, this correspondence will be made available on the Product Development portion of the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment for future reference.