



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 3, 2009

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] TV Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the final ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 and 5.0 Television (TV) specifications. This letter lays out the Agency's final decisions regarding these new requirements and outlines the general process for qualifying products using these new requirements.

Versions 4.0 and 5.0 requirements will become effective on May 1, 2010 and May 1, 2012 respectively. TVs qualifying for ENERGY STAR under the Version 4.0 specification will offer consumers a savings of more than 40 percent. When the Version 5.0 specification goes into effect, ENERGY STAR qualified TVs will be as much as 65 percent more efficient than models currently on the market. These requirements establish challenging On Mode power consumption levels, take steps to ensure a TV is viewed in the mode in which it qualified for ENERGY STAR so consumer savings are realized, and curb power associated with downloading program guide data.

These specifications were developed through a process that included release of three draft specifications, along with supporting documents such as proposals specific to DAM, luminance, and hospitality TVs, six stakeholder meetings, and input from stakeholders. The enclosed Comment Response document contains a summary of comments received in response to the draft final specification and an explanation of EPA's response in each case. Stakeholder comments, previous drafts of the specification, and related materials are available on EPA's ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs. Click on the "Televisions" link.

The Versions 4.0 and 5.0 On Mode requirements remain unchanged from the proposed levels in the final draft specification. EPA received little additional input on the proposed 4.0 requirements. After weighing carefully all input specific to the proposed 5.0 requirement, EPA has decided to proceed with a requirement that TVs greater than 50 inches in size meet the same On Mode requirements as a screen of 50 inches – 108 watts.

EPA's decision is largely due to an issue that is present in several ENERGY STAR program areas and needs to be addressed to maintain the integrity of the ENERGY STAR label and program. The issue in this case is what TV sizes can the federal government credibly designate as preferable from an energy and environmental perspective. This has become an important issue as the sizes of TVs and energy use continue to grow. To address this issue, EPA considered limiting the TV-size eligible for the ENERGY STAR label to 50 inch TVs or smaller. The proposed energy consumption level for TVs larger than 50 inches arose out of the recognition that if these larger TVs could meet limits associated with a 50 inch TV, excluding them would be unwarranted.

Consistent with this rationale, EPA accepts the potential that there may be more limited selection of ENERGY STAR products in the largest of screen sizes under Version 5.0. Further, EPA knows that there will be some availability of products with these screen sizes; there is already qualifying product in TV sizes greater than 50 inches, and we expect that the number of products that will meet the 5.0 requirements will only grow between now and 2012.

EPA is committed to tracking this market carefully and revisiting the Version 5.0 requirements before they go into effect if the selection of qualifying models raises questions regarding the impact of the label. As appropriate, EPA will reconsider manufacturers' proposals or any new input at that time.

Key changes to the Versions 4.0 and 5.0 specifications since the final draft are summarized below:

- **Luminance Testing:** Based on input from stakeholders, EPA is accepting industry's proposal for measuring luminance to provide greater clarity and precision. The final test procedure includes use of the three bar video signal provided in IEC 62087 Ed. 2, Section 11.5.5. The test method includes additional guidance on conducting the measurements immediately following On Mode power testing and includes a 10-minute stabilization period before each luminance measurement (e.g., home and retail).
- **Download Acquisition Mode (DAM):** Based on input EPA has received from TV manufacturers and content providers, EPA has removed the language in the Final specification that DAM must be disabled upon shipping and can only be enabled by a user activating the feature. EPA will continue to require that any TV with DAM must meet the energy requirement when in DAM, regardless of whether the feature is enabled upon shipping. All other aspects DAM requirements remain unchanged from those in the draft final specifications. EPA will continue to track the DAM trends closely.
 - **DAM Testing:** To allow additional time for creating a test procedure for measuring DAM, EPA will facilitate development of the test procedure through the coming few months. This effort will continue building on the concepts and requirements discussed on the July 30 stakeholder conference call and outlined in previous drafts of the specification. EPA will seek comment on a next draft of the DAM test method with set-up requirements and a test stream after receipt of additional information from interested stakeholders, ideally in late September. Once final, EPA will amend the Version 4.0 and 5.0 specifications to include this refined testing language.
- **CEA-2037:** EPA has incorporated draft CEA-2037 in the specification to provide additional clarification on using IEC 62087, Ed. 2.0, Section 11 for measuring TV On Mode power, pending its finalization. EPA believes that doing so helps to further domestic harmonization of TV testing (i.e., by regulators and voluntary programs). EPA recognizes that CEA-2037 became available later in the specification development process, and thus ENERGY STAR stakeholders had more limited ability to comment on this testing standard. Therefore, EPA will share comments the Agency receives on this standard with CEA and request that they be considered. EPA will make every effort to keep stakeholders informed of changes to this document as it moves to finalization.

In the coming months, EPA will provide stakeholders with instructions that explain how to become, or continue, as an ENERGY STAR Television partner as the new specifications go into effect. Once the Version 4.0 specification is in effect on May 1, 2010, the process to qualify televisions will be generally consistent with what was in place for Version 3.0, with an active manufacturer partnership being required and data collected through the Online Product Submittal (OPS) tool at www.energystar.gov/ops. In early 2010, EPA will work to revise the OPS system to accept data for the product categories in the specification.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your energy-efficient televisions. If you have any questions or concerns about the specification or partnership process, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or kaplan.katharine@epa.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,



Katharine Kaplan, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics