

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 9, 2009

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] TV Stakeholder:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the revision of the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR specification for Televisions. Since launching the new ENERGY STAR television requirements on November 1, 2008, EPA has qualified over 470 products from 21 manufacturers. Due to the rapid uptake of the new ENERGY STAR requirements, and in response to requests from a range of stakeholders, EPA is initiating this revision process slightly earlier than initially planned. This letter frames the expected scope of this revision, provides a projected timeline, and invites your participation in this revision process.

Expected Scope of Revision

On Mode Requirements

EPA expects to focus this revision on the ON Mode requirements to ensure that ENERGY STAR televisions remain top performers when it comes to energy efficiency. In order to ensure longevity of this specification and to provide partners with a roadmap for the out years, EPA intends to work with stakeholders to create two tiers through this revision, Tiers 2 and 3. EPA will revisit future tiers prior to their effective date to ensure the relevance of the requirements.

New Luminance Requirements

EPA will propose to include a luminance requirement in which the home or standard luminance level be not less than 80% of the luminance level of the manufacturer's selectable mode with the highest luminance level. This approach aligns with that which is being proposed by ENERGY STAR partner countries in Europe and Australia. EPA will propose use of the test procedure for measuring luminance values, outlined in EPA's December 12 correspondence, in the Version 3.0 specification going forward.

Download Acquisition Mode

EPA will also engage with stakeholders to determine a means of limiting the time and/or power consumption of products in a Download Acquisition Mode. As a starting point, EPA will propose a time limit for amount of time in a 24 hour period that a product can wake from standby mode to perform tasks such as scanning for program or system information. This approach is used in EPA's ENERGY STAR requirements for digital-to-analog (DTA) converter boxes.

Test Procedure

EPA does not expect to make any major changes to the current test procedures described in the Tier 1 Version 3.0 specification.

Anticipated Tier 2 and 3 Specification Development Timeline

As EPA moves forward with revising the current Tier 1 requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via drafts, e-mail updates, and stakeholder meetings. On February 12, EPA will invite stakeholders to share information regarding products that will be available in the second quarter of 2010, when EPA expects Tier 2 to become effective. EPA will develop proposed Tier 2 and 3 On Mode power level requirements based on comments as well as data shared with the Agency by April 2, 2009.

EPA expects to have several Web-based stakeholder meetings in addition to one in-person stakeholder meeting to be held in Washington, DC. EPA proposes hosting this in-person meeting on May 7, 2009. Please let EPA know as soon as possible if this date is problematic for your organization. EPA intends to complete the specification revision process by August 2009. Please review the following anticipated timeline and provide any comments to EPA:

- February 12: EPA to invite submission of product information.
- April 2: Data from stakeholders due to EPA.
- April 20: EPA to distribute Draft 1 specification.
- May 7 (proposed): In-person stakeholder meeting held in Washington, DC.
- May 18: Stakeholder comments on Draft 1 specification due to EPA.
- June 1: EPA to distribute Draft 2 specification.
- Week of June 15: Web-based stakeholder meeting.
- June 29: Stakeholder comments on Draft 2 due to EPA.
- July 13: EPA to distribute Draft Final specification.
- Week of July 27: Web-based stakeholder meeting.
- August 3: Stakeholder comments on Draft Final specification due to EPA.
- August 10: EPA to distribute Final specification.
- May 1, 2010: Tier 2 Effective Date.

All specification updates will be posted at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment (select 'Revisions to Existing Product Specifications' and then select 'Televisions').

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification review process. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. In addition, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or kaplan.katharine@epa.gov with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Sincerely,



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