



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 08, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR® Residential Ventilating Fan Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes a minor revision, Version 3.2 Residential Ventilating Fan product specification, which will take effect on April 1, 2012. The revision modifies the lighting requirements to allow less than 800 lumens per light source for range hood fans. This version reflects no other changes and does not affect vent fans currently on the qualified product list.

Non-directional luminaires are subject to a source minimum light output requirement of 800 lumens per light source. This requirement is included because some products within the non-directional category of luminaires have light sources that are not replaceable by consumers. Thus, consumers who find that their new luminaire does not produce a satisfactory amount of light will have no recourse but to purchase another one.

Stakeholders have expressed concerns over the 800 lumens per light source requirement for range hood fans, which are considered non-directional luminaires for lighting purposes. Concerns included management of waste heat generated by an 800 lumen light source, given the operating conditions of range hood fans. In particular, the requirement is likely to limit the placement of internal components, which may itself lead to consumer dissatisfaction. Taking these concerns into account, along with the understanding that technologies with non-replaceable light sources are not currently technically feasible for use in range hoods, EPA proposes excluding range hood fans from the source minimum light output requirement of 800 lumens.

Bath Fans will continue to be subject to the requirement, since the reasoning that led to the requirement in the Luminaires specification applies to them. That is, they are generally intended to be a primary light source in the room they are in, they do not have the operating condition issues of range hood fans, and it is technically feasible for them to use a light source technology which is not user replaceable.

In terms of qualification of the products to the ENERGY STAR Ventilating Fan specification, please note that manufacturers may have their CB certify their ventilating fans to the Residential Ventilating Fan Version 3.2 requirements at any time. All products manufactured on or after the effective date (April 1, 2012) must be certified to meet the Version 3.2 requirements in order to bear the ENERGY STAR mark.

This revision will be posted as final on December 23, 2011, unless stakeholders raise significant issues in the interim. Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov or (202) 343-9375 and Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at smedepalli@icfi.com or (202) 862-1268. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program