

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 15, 2009

Dear ENERGY STAR® Ventilating Fan Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am pleased to present you with the Final Version 2.1 ENERGY STAR Ventilating Fan specification. The new Version 2.1 specification is effective immediately. The purpose of this new version is to provide partners with greater flexibility in terms of the process to test and qualify products. Please also note a clarification to the way range hoods are tested, described below. All draft specification documents and comments received throughout the development process are available on the ENERGY STAR *Revisions to Existing Product Specifications in Development* Web page at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

Following the release of the Final Draft specification, EPA received a number of questions from stakeholders which have been addressed in this final version. These clarifications are detailed below:

- **Multi-Speed Fans:** As originally written, the ventilating fan specification did not provide Partners with direction on how to qualify bathroom and utility room fans, or in-line ventilating fans, with more than one speed. It has come to EPA's attention that this omission may lead to confusion regarding the speed at which this type of fan must be tested and reported to earn ENERGY STAR qualification. Unlike range hoods that are tested at *working speed*, which has been vetted by industry members and determined to be representative of typical use, bathroom and utility fans, and in-line ventilating fans, do not have a consistent way to measure and compare multiple speed performance. As such, EPA has added language to the specification to clarify that fans of this type with more than one speed must be tested and meet the efficacy and sound level requirements of the Version 2.1 specification at each speed. In addition, the Partner must also report to EPA the efficacy and sound level at each speed. This clarification ensures the consumer that ENERGY STAR qualified bathroom and utility room fans, and in-line ventilating fans, will meet the performance requirements regardless of how they are used in the home or business.
- **Range Hood Configuration:** It was EPA's intent in Version 2.0 that range hoods should meet the ENERGY STAR criteria regardless of their configuration. Since the Version 2.0 ventilating fan specification did not specifically address testing of different configurations of range hoods (e.g., vertical, horizontal), this has led to confusion with respect to the configuration at which range hoods must qualify for ENERGY STAR. To clarify this, EPA is proposing to require range hoods to be tested and meet the efficacy and sound level requirements of the specification in each of their possible configurations. In addition, the Partner must report the efficacy and sound level to EPA at each configuration. This clarification ensures ENERGY STAR performance is maintained regardless of how the product might be installed.

We are proposing that this clarification be effective October 15, 2009. As of this date, range hoods with more than one possible configuration will no longer be considered ENERGY STAR qualified under this specification, and will be removed from the Residential Ventilating Fans Qualified Product List, unless they meet the requirements of this specification at each possible configuration. In the interim, EPA will not accept new range hood products unless they are tested in all possible configurations. EPA is accepting comments on this proposed clarification for range hoods. Comments must be provided to Andrew Fanara at fanara.andrew@epa.gov or Josh Forgotson at jforgotson@icfi.com by January 30, 2009.

- **Third Party Laboratory Accreditation:** EPA recognizes that many of the laboratory reports used to qualify models on the current Qualified Product List were produced in testing laboratories without ISO 17025 accreditation. Further, more fans are likely to be qualified prior to January 1, 2010 by laboratories that are not accredited to ISO 17025. The accreditation requirement going into effect on January 1, 2010 will not invalidate test reports produced by laboratories prior to their earning ISO 17025 accreditation.

Qualifying Products under the New Version 2.1 Specification

The process of qualifying ventilating fans under this Version 2.1 specification is generally consistent with the process under Version 2.0, with data collected through the Qualified Product Information (QPI) form. The new version of this form, attached, is effective immediately, and includes the following key additional reporting requirements:

- The number of speeds must now be reported for bathroom and utility room fans, and in-line ventilating fans, with more than one speed. Further, product performance data for such fans must be reported for each speed.
- Product performance data for range hoods must be reported for all possible configurations (e.g., vertical, horizontal, etc.).
- Airflow for all fan types must be reported both rounded down to the nearest whole Watt and as certified, if different.
- Partners must now indicate if the product being submitted is in the Air Movement and Control Association (AMCA) directory, the Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) directory, or in the directory of any other industry association.
- A new table has been added to allow the submittal of data on LED Light Engine Sources, permitting the qualification of ventilating fans employing this type of lighting.

Note, because the technical requirements of this specification, including efficacy, sone, and warranty requirements, have not changed from Version 2.0 to Version 2.1, models qualified under Version 2.0 meet the requirements of this Version 2.1 specification, and thus do not need to be requalified under Version 2.1.

EPA wishes to thank all stakeholders who provided feedback during this specification revision process. If you have any questions or concerns about the new Version 2.1 specification, please feel free to contact me at fanara.andrew@epa.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Andrew Fanara, EPA
ENERGY STAR Product Manager

Enclosed:

- Final Version 2.1 ENERGY STAR Ventilating Fan Specification;
- Qualified Product Information form; and,
- Commitment Form.