



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

October 27, 2009

To all ENERGY STAR customers:

This October, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Energy (DOE) published a report on DOE's management of its portion of the ENERGY STAR product labeling program. In the report, concerns were expressed about a small number of cases where manufacturers misused the ENERGY STAR label on their products.

Based on a broad range of testing done by the government and others, we know that the overwhelming majority of products that earn the ENERGY STAR label meet program requirements and have effectively saved consumers money and reduced energy usage. In fact, the issues of concern were raised and addressed prior to the DOE Inspector General's report, in an agreement signed by DOE and EPA on September 30, 2009. That agreement strengthened testing, verification, and enforcement under the ENERGY STAR program to go beyond the OIG's recommendations.

Most importantly, we want to assure our customers that they can still rely on ENERGY STAR to reduce energy use and cut energy costs. ENERGY STAR is one of the government's most successful programs, and for over 17 years, has promoted energy efficiency for homes and businesses. Last year alone, ENERGY STAR helped Americans save more than \$19 billion on their utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 29 million vehicles.

As always, consumers can trust the ENERGY STAR mark and should continue to look to ENERGY STAR to help them save money on their energy bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Vargas".

Maria T. Vargas  
ENERGY STAR Brand Manager