

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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

September 20, 2016

Dear ENERGY STAR® Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer Partner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to inform you that the Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer specification has been finalized. Your valuable feedback and input throughout the development process has been integral to this Version 4.0 specification. EPA would like to thank all the stakeholders who contributed feedback that helped inform this specification revision process. The effective date for this specification is March 27, 2017. This letter outlines the transition process.

The Commercial Refrigerator and Freezer product category was introduced to the ENERGY STAR Program over 15 years ago. Since the early 2000s, ENERGY STAR partners have ensured that ENERGY STAR commercial refrigeration equipment (CRE) will provide significant savings to purchasers. The new Version 4.0 performance requirements for CRE offer end users energy savings ranging from 17 – 40% and about \$40 – \$100 per year, depending on configuration, when compared to conventional models. If all commercial refrigerators and freezers sold in the United States were ENERGY STAR certified, the energy cost savings would grow to nearly \$235 million each year and more than 5 billion pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented, equivalent to the emissions from over 480,000 vehicles.

#### **Overview of the Version 4.0 Specification**

EPA received two comments in response to the Final Draft distributed on August 2. One set of comments indicated EPA should continue to monitor the use of climate-friendly refrigerants and their impact on the commercial refrigeration market, as well as product availability. EPA appreciates this comment and plans to continue discussions about the energy performance of various refrigerants, in addition to collecting information about refrigerant type to be listed on the ENERGY STAR Qualified Products List (QPL). The second set of comments offered support for the final specification. EPA appreciates the feedback stakeholders have shared throughout the entire specification revision process.

This specification was developed through a process that included the release of three draft specifications, a stakeholder webinar, an in-person stakeholder meeting, and many individual discussions. All Version 4.0 specification development materials are available on EPA's ENERGY STAR website at [www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs](http://www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs) (click on the Commercial Refrigerators & Freezers "Version 4.0 is in development" link).

The effective date for this specification is March 27, 2017, aligning for partner ease with the compliance date for the forthcoming Federal standard.

#### **Transition Timeline and Next Steps**

EPA shares its Partners desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next with the objective of meeting end user expectations that ENERGY STAR

labeled products fully meet the latest requirements in effect upon their date of manufacture. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline:

- Effective immediately, brand owners may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 4.0 requirements.
- On February 15, 2017, CBs will be asked to stop certifying new product submittals to the existing ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 specification requirements. Note, however, that existing certifications to Version 3.0 will remain valid for the purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until March 27, 2017.
- As of March 27, 2017, any product manufactured and labeled as ENERGY STAR must meet Version 4.0 requirements. At this time, all certifications of products to the Version 3.0 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 4.0 to EPA.

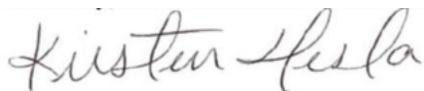
### **Third-Party Certification**

All new products must be certified by an EPA-recognized CB before being labeled and marketed as ENERGY STAR. Upon satisfactory completion of all certification requirements, a CB will notify the Partner that the product is ENERGY STAR certified and will submit certified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. For more information on the Third-party Certification program please visit [www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert](http://www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert). Currently qualified models that are not certified to Version 4.0 will be removed from the ENERGY STAR qualified products list on March 27, 2017.

Please note that ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however, the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

On behalf of EPA, I appreciate your participation in the development of this specification and look forward to working with each of you as you certify and promote your energy-efficient equipment. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 564-2984 and [Hesla.Kirsten@epa.gov](mailto:Hesla.Kirsten@epa.gov) or Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (916) 231-7685 and [Adam.Spitz@icfi.com](mailto:Adam.Spitz@icfi.com) with any questions or comments regarding this specification. For test method questions, please contact Ashley Armstrong at [ashley.armstrong@ee.doe.gov](mailto:ashley.armstrong@ee.doe.gov).

Sincerely,



Kirsten Hesla, Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR Commercial Food Service