



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 23, 2020

Dear ENERGY STAR® CAC/HP Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the enclosed [Draft 2 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump \(CAC/HP\) specification](#). EPA plans to hold a stakeholder meeting on February 11, 2020 to discuss the Draft 2 specification in greater detail. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on this Draft to EPA no later than February 28, 2020.

With the Version 6.0 revision, EPA seeks to recognize products for their superior efficiency as well as their advanced design and capabilities, namely for connected and cold climate products. This draft continues this specification development process with refinements based on stakeholder feedback and also proposes recognizing capabilities that can facilitate a high-quality installation.

In response to the Draft 1 specification, EPA received strong industry feedback that manufacturers will be facing extensive redesign and retesting for the upcoming Federal standards and test method change. In recognition of the concerted effort this will require, EPA is proposing to align the Version 6.0 effective date with the January 1, 2023 effective date of the new standards and test method. In so doing, the Agency is committed to anticipating potential market advances such that the value this ENERGY STAR specification delivers is maintained, even with the delay. Recognizing the investment partners are making in products now and the benefit that extra time to meet ENERGY STAR requirements offers, EPA is proposing adjustments to the criteria for CAC/HP products to achieve the long-term savings goals of the ENERGY STAR program and maintain differentiation in the future market. Consistent with past practice, ENERGY STAR partners will have the option to certify products to the Version 6.0 specification beginning once the specification is finalized. For purposes of this interim period between finalization and the specification's effective date, equivalent criteria are provided in terms of current DOE metrics (i.e. SEER, EER and HSPF).

Proposal Summary

Draft 2 Version 6.0 proposes the following changes from the Draft 1 proposal, and identifies other areas for further discussion:

- **Definitions:** Definitions have been amended to align with Appendix M1 and definitions related to connected capability have been added. Due to the change in the DOE definition, the specification throughout has been amended to refer to central air conditioners and heat pumps (CAC/HP), rather than the previous term, air-source heat pump.
- **Cold Climate Recognition:** EPA has maintained the climate-based recognition as proposed in Draft 1. For purposes of certification prior to the January 1, 2023 effective date,

EPA will accept manufacturer provided application data for the Cold Climate requirements for Coefficient of Performance (COP) and Percentage of Rated Capacity @ 5°F.

- **Performance Criteria:** Per the Appendix M1 test method, EPA has proposed ENERGY STAR levels in the new metrics of SEER2, EER2, and HSPF2 for CAC/HPs. To maintain differentiation from the Federal minimum efficiencies and account for future advances, EPA has proposed increased levels for SEER2 and HSPF2.
- **Staged and Variable Capacity:** EPA has maintained the proposal from Draft 1 that all ENERGY STAR certified units have at least two capacity stages or are continuously variable.
- **Installation Capabilities:** Per conversations with stakeholders about the important role installation plays in terms of delivered efficiency, EPA is proposing that all ENERGY STAR certified units meet at least three out of several listed capabilities that would help facilitate a high-quality installation.
- **Connected Criteria:** As proposed in the recent limited topic proposal on connected criteria for CAC/HP, EPA has included optional connected criteria for this product category. Minor adjustments have been made to align more closely with AHRI 1380.
- **Test Method:** The test method reference has been updated to refer to the 2023 Federal test method for CAC/HP units, 10 CFR part 430 Subpart B, Appendix M1. The Appendix M test method may be used for certification prior to January 1, 2023.

More details regarding these elements are included in note boxes throughout the draft specification document.

Comment Submittal Process

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to CAC-ASHP@energystar.gov by February 28, 2020. All comments will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR CAC-ASHP Product Development](https://www.energystar.gov/development/cac-ashp) website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Meeting

EPA plans to host a stakeholder webinar meeting on **February 11, 2020 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm ET** to discuss the Draft 2 document and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Stakeholders interested in participating in this discussion should RSVP to CAC-ASHP@energystar.gov by **February 28, 2020**. Stakeholders are encouraged to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date.

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken, EPA, at daken.abigail@epa.gov or (202) 343-9375, and Julia Hegarty, ICF, at julia.hegarty@icf.com or (202) 862-1163. For test procedure inquiries, please contact Antonio Bouza, U.S. Department of Energy, at antonio.bouza@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-9870. Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft 2 document. I look forward to working with you over the next several months to develop the Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC/HP specification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abigail Daken', written in a cursive style.

Abigail Daken, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for HVAC

Enclosures:

[Draft 2 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC-HP Specification](#)

[Draft 2 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC-HP Data Package](#)

[Draft 1 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC-HP Comment Response Matrix](#)