



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 15, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® CAC/ASHP Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 2 Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Air-Source Heat Pump (CAC/ASHP) specification. EPA plans to hold a stakeholder meeting on September 23, 2014 to discuss the Draft 2 specification in greater detail. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on this Draft to EPA no later than October 10, 2014.

The Draft 2 specification was developed based on comments received on the Draft 1 specification as well as subsequent stakeholder discussions and research. Significant feedback was received in the following areas, as discussed below.

National Performance Criteria.

After extensive discussions with stakeholders and additional analysis, EPA has concluded that at this time, regional standards for split system central AC do not deliver enough consumer value to justify the additional burden on manufacturers, distributors and installers that they entail. Thus, EPA proposes to move to national requirements, specifically 15 SEER, 12.5 EER and 8.5 HSPF for split systems. These levels provide good consumer value in many situations and coordinate with CEE levels, making consumer incentives, which remain important for HVAC products, more accessible. Further, EPA proposes single package levels of 15 SEER, 12 EER and (for heat pumps) 8.2 HSPF, in recognition that for these relatively low sales volume products, aligning SEER and EER values between heat pumps and CAC will encourage program participation.

Independent Coil Manufacturer (ICM).

Some stakeholders have expressed interest in including ICMs in the ENERGY STAR CAC/ASHP program. Upon detailed discussions with stakeholders and research that demonstrated the value of inclusion, EPA has proposed to add ICMs. The Agency is thinking through how to address the unique challenges presented by ICMs in terms of third party certification and verification testing, and anticipates leveraging a process similar to AHRI certification program.

EPA addresses these and additional stakeholder comments in note boxes found throughout the Draft 2 specification.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to CAC-ASHP@energystar.gov by **October 10, 2014**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Meeting

EPA plans to host a stakeholder webinar meeting on **September 23, 2014 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm ET** to discuss the Draft 2 document and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. If you would like to participate, [please register prior to the webinar](#). Stakeholders are encouraged to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date. EPA will distribute further information about this meeting over the next few weeks.

To track EPA's progress in developing the ENERGY STAR CAC/ASHP specification, visit the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs (click on the Central Air Conditioner and Air-Source Heat Pump Version 5.0 link).

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken, EPA, at daken.abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 and Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at sarah.medepalli@icfi.com or 202-677-5201. For test procedure inquiries, please contact Ashley Armstrong (DOE) at (202) 586-6590 or ashley.armstrong@ee.doe.gov. Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft 2 document.

Sincerely,



Abigail Daken, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for HVAC