June 7, 2016

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share the Draft 2 Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to EPA no later than July 5, 2016.

In response to Draft 1, EPA received some stakeholder concern about introducing ENERGY STAR performance requirements beyond the 2017 U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) minimum efficiency standards for commercial refrigeration equipment (CRE). In response, EPA conducted individual and collective outreach to industry representatives. Based on additional analysis and discussions with stakeholders, EPA continues to see strong value and opportunity for advancing technologies and efficiency within this product category.

In consideration of these stakeholder comments, the Agency did re-examine the proposed efficiency performance levels and made modest adjustments to enable a broader selection of products. As a note, data did not support making adjustments to two vertical refrigerator sub-types, or the horizontal refrigerators and freezers levels. Additional details are provided in note boxes in the Draft 2 specification.

EPA included some preliminary analysis on the energy savings associated with incorporating climate-friendly refrigerant systems. The Agency received several comments on the estimated range of efficiency gains associated with these design modifications, listed in Draft 1. EPA has learned from partners who have made use of alternatives, that in many cases, they deliver energy savings for CRE. EPA is encouraged to see that numerous manufacturers have successfully incorporated the use of climate-friendly refrigerants into various types and model configurations, and some ENERGY STAR partners plan to convert a major portion of their product line before the end of 2016.

Submitting Comments
Stakeholders who wish to provide written comments may send them to commercialrefrigeration@energystar.gov by July 5, 2016. All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers specification development webpage, which can be accessed through www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs (click on the Commercial Refrigerators & Freezers “Version 4.0 is in development” link), unless the submitter requests otherwise.
Please feel free to contact me at (202) 564-2984 and Hesla.Kirsten@epa.gov or Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (916) 231-7685 and Adam.Spitz@icfi.com with any questions regarding this specification or the ENERGY STAR partnership. For test procedure questions, please contact Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at (202) 586-6590 and Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Hesla, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Commercial Food Service