September 10, 2018

Dear ENERGY STAR® Vending Machine Partner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing the Draft 1, Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine Product Specification. With a more stringent DOE federal minimum standard coming into effect on January 8, 2019, revised ENERGY STAR criteria are needed to effectively differentiate energy efficient vending machine products beyond what the new regulations require of all products. The deadline to provide comments on this Draft 1 specification is October 9, 2018.

Since the finalization of the current Version 3.1 ENERGY STAR Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine specification, DOE issued new federal minimum efficiency requirements for new Class A and Class B refrigerated beverage vending machines, with a compliance date of January 8, 2019. The new Class A minimum standard aligns with the performance criteria for Version 3.1 ENERGY STAR and the new Class B minimum standard exceeds current ENERGY STAR levels by approximately 22%. Additionally, the DOE introduced standards for new Combination A and Combination B vending machines. To ensure ENERGY STAR labeled refrigerated beverage vending products continue to offer significant savings beyond standard products and align with DOE’s scope and definition, EPA is launching development of Version 4.0. Key elements of the Draft 1 Version 4.0 specification include:

Definitions: The EPA has updated several terms and definitions to align with the DOE final rule 10 CFR §431 and included a definition for food vending machines to support possible scope expansion to include this growing area of the market. The Draft 1 includes additions of or amendments to the following definitions:

- Class A and Class B Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machines
- Combination A and Combination B Vending Machines
- Food Vending Machines
- Rebuilt Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machines
- Low Power Mode
- Accessory Low Power Mode
- Refrigeration Low Power Mode

Scope: The EPA is proposing a scope expansion to include Combination A and Combination B vending machines covered in the forthcoming federal minimum standard as well as potential expansion to food vending machines.

MDEC Requirements: EPA anticipates that as manufacturers reconfigure their vending machine products to meet the new federal minimum standard, there will be opportunities to reduce the incremental cost of producing more efficient products by leveraging existing technologies, design options, and components. As such, the EPA is proposing levels in Draft 1 that reflect the efficiency performance of the top 15% of Class A and 18% of Class B refrigerated beverage vending machines. Data plots can be found in the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Draft 1 Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine Product Development website.
Low Power Mode Requirements: EPA is proposing to align with the DOE on the low power mode terminology. In addition, EPA requires that beverage machines come equipped with hard wired controls and/or software capable of placing the machine into one of the following low power modes during operation: (1) lighting low power state; (2) refrigeration low power state; or (3) whole machine low power state. In addition, the EPA applies the same 3% credit as does the DOE to products with refrigeration low-power mode.

Stakeholder Webinar
EPA will host a webinar to answer any questions on this Draft 1, Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine Product Specification on September 25, 2018, from 1:00-3:00 PM Eastern Time. Please register here if you plan on attending.

Comment Submittal
EPA welcomes stakeholder input on the attached Draft 1, Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Refrigerated Beverage Vending Machine Product Specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit any comments to vendingmachines@energystar.gov by October 9, 2018. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

The exchange of ideas and information between the EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR website. To track the EPA’s progress on this specification, please visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website.

Please contact me at Crk.Tanja@epa.gov or 202-566-1037 and Adam Spitz at Adam.Spitz@icf.com or 916-231-7685 with questions or concerns regarding this draft specification. Please direct questions regarding the test method to Ashley Armstrong at Ashley.Armstrong@EE.Doe.Gov. For any other vending machine related questions, please contact vendingmachines@energystar.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Tanja Crk, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Commercial Food Service

Enclosures:
Draft 1 Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR Vending Machines Specification
Draft 1 Version 4.0 Vending Machines Data Packet