



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 10, 2017

Dear ENERGY STAR® Residential Refrigerator and Freezer Brand Owner and Other Interested Parties:

In an effort to ensure that the ENERGY STAR mark remains relevant in the marketplace and continues to offer meaningful energy and cost savings to consumers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews existing ENERGY STAR specifications on a regular basis, including the Version 5.0 Residential Refrigerator and Freezer requirements. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on this review, EPA will not be going forward with a revision to the ENERGY STAR Version 5.0 Residential Refrigerators and Freezers Eligibility Criteria at this time.

EPA's decision not to revise this year is based on two factors. First, for the past few years since the 2014 specification transition, ENERGY STAR market penetration has been stable for refrigerators and freezers—46% in 2015 and 47% in 2016— with no signs of rapid increase. Second, closely clustered performance of the current ENERGY STAR models in major product types reflects a lack of significant differentiation that makes it difficult to raise the bar at this time. EPA will continue to capitalize on the savings potential associated with this category by working to further increase sales of ENERGY STAR certified and ENERGY STAR Most Efficient products.

As a result of research and stakeholder outreach conducted as part of this review, EPA is confident that technological innovations in efficiency are underway. While EPA has decided not to move forward with a specification revision at this time, the Agency will continue to monitor these innovations, as well as market trends, for emerging opportunities to use ENERGY STAR to continue recognizing leading products.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program. If you have any questions or feedback, please direct them to Melissa Fiffer at EPA, Fiffer.Melissa@epa.gov or 202-343-9464, and Steve Leybourn at ICF, Steve.Leybourn@icf.com or 202-862-1566.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Fiffer".

Melissa Fiffer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR Appliance Product Manager