

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

December 21, 2016

Dear Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the Final Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Specification. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort contributing data and feedback to this specification development process. The Version 1.0 Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Specification is effective immediately. This letter highlights key features of the new specification and outlines the process for certifying products to it.

The first ENERGY STAR specification for laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers will recognize the top energy performing products used specifically for storing non-volatile reagents and biological specimens in laboratory settings, including hospitals, clinics, university and government research laboratories, and pharmaceutical manufacturing plants. We expect an offering of certified models across a range of product types and sizes, allowing customers to purchase efficient products right sized and properly controlled for their sample needs.

This new ENERGY STAR lab grade refrigerator and freezer specification will raise market awareness and adoption of more energy efficient products and encourage continued efficiency improvements through use of tested techniques like auto-off lighting combined with the use of LED lights; energy efficient low-E glass used in glass door refrigerators; more efficient cooling compressors; more advanced microprocessor temperature control and defrost sensors; more efficient high-capacity air circulation systems, as well as hot gas defrost solutions; and low global warming potential, energy efficient alternative refrigerant options.

EPA received written feedback from two stakeholders on the Final Draft specification, primarily requesting that EPA create more granular energy requirements, which our current data set cannot sufficiently support at this time. EPA has added these areas to the future considerations section of the specification to revisit in Version 2.0, when a larger data set will allow deeper investigation. All draft versions of the specification, comments received and related materials are available on the ENERGY STAR website at <https://www.energystar.gov/specifications> under the link for "Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers."

**Next Steps:**

The effective date for this Version 1.0 Lab Grade Refrigerator and Freezer specification is **December 21, 2016**. Manufacturers new to the ENERGY STAR program may submit a Partnership Agreement to [join@energystar.gov](mailto:join@energystar.gov) to initiate the application process for the Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer program. Existing partners need only send an email expressing their intention to certify products to this new specification to [join@energystar.gov](mailto:join@energystar.gov). Existing partners may also submit a new participant form adding laboratory grade refrigerators

and freezers if doing so is helpful for their record keeping. For information about this process, please visit [www.energystar.gov/join](http://www.energystar.gov/join).

Certification bodies (CBs) may continue to submit applications for EPA recognition. Third-party laboratories interested in obtaining EPA recognition for the ENERGY STAR Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer program are encouraged to begin the accreditation process with their accreditation body, if they have not already done so. First-party, un-accredited labs can conduct testing if they participate in a witnessed or supervised testing program run by an EPA recognized CBs. For more information, please visit [www.energystar.gov/testingandverification](http://www.energystar.gov/testingandverification). EPA will host a mandatory webinar for CBs seeking recognition for this category in January. Additional information will be forthcoming.

### **Third-party Certification:**

As a reminder, all new products must be certified by an EPA recognized CB before being labeled and marketed as ENERGY STAR certified. Upon satisfactory completion of all certification requirements, a CB will notify the partner that the product is ENERGY STAR certified and will submit certified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. For more information on the Third-party Certification program, please visit [www.energystar.gov/3rdPartyCert](http://www.energystar.gov/3rdPartyCert).

Please note that ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to consumers or end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification development process and looks forward to working with you as you certify and market your certified Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer products. Please direct any questions to Katharine Kaplan, EPA, at [Kaplan.Katharine@epa.gov](mailto:Kaplan.Katharine@epa.gov), or 202-343-9120; or John Clinger, ICF, at [John.Clinger@icf.com](mailto:John.Clinger@icf.com), or 215-967-9407.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan  
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Admin