

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 17, 2014,

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 1 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer specification. Comments on this document are due no later than **December 12, 2014**. EPA will host a webinar on **December 17, 2014**. Details are included at the close of this letter.

EPA initiated the ENERGY STAR specification process for laboratory grade refrigerator and freezers because the Agency believes there are meaningful opportunities to recognize the more efficient products in the marketplace and to reward those who manufacture and develop them.

The attached Draft 1 proposal builds on ideas presented in the Framework document. EPA's rationale for these proposals is provided in note boxes throughout the specification. With this Draft 1 specification, EPA seeks to: 1) update stakeholders on the specification development process for lab grade refrigeration equipment; 2) refine and propose new relevant definitions; and 3) inform stakeholders of EPA's data assembly effort.

EPA has revised and added new definitions to address stakeholder feedback on the Framework Document, provide a more cohesive set of product type definitions, expand on component/feature definitions, and revise text for clarity. The scope section clarifies the proposed scope of Version 1.0, taking into account stakeholder feedback from the Framework Document and other discussions with stakeholders during the development process. In addition, EPA provides introductory discussion regarding the nature of energy efficiency requirements for laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers. As noted in this Draft 1 document, EPA does not have sufficient data to propose which characteristics would be appropriate to differentiate products.

**Data Assembly:**

Recognizing that we have a limited initial dataset, EPA is seeking additional product energy performance data to understand efficiency improvements in newer products that have come onto the market in recent years. Additionally, EPA seeks product energy data on Ultra-Low-Temperature Freezers (ULTs) as they are currently under consideration for inclusion, but can only be included if sufficient product data is submitted upon which to base proposed requirements. Attached you will find the finalized ENERGY STAR Test Method for Laboratory Grade Refrigerators, Freezers, and ULTs and the complimentary test reporting template. This product performance data need not be third party certified to be considered for specification development purposes.

EPA primarily seeks energy data for product types defined in Section 1.A.1 through 1.A.3 in the attached Draft 1 specification, but will review data from product types in Section 1.A.4 through

1.A.7 in support of further discussion on scope if warranted. **EPA is striving to assemble a more complete dataset that reflects the market today and will use all applicable data submitted previously, as well as new product data submitted using the test reporting template via email to [labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov](mailto:labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov) by January 30, 2015.**

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the specific concepts and definitions presented in this document, as well as any general comments, to [labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov](mailto:labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov) by **December 12, 2014**.

EPA invites stakeholders to participate in a web meeting to discuss the Draft 1 specification on **December 17, 2014 from 12 - 2 PM Eastern**. Stakeholders interested in participating in this webinar should RSVP to [labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov](mailto:labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov) **no later than December 15, 2014** with the subject "RSVP – Lab Grade R/F Version 1.0 Specification Meeting."

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification development process. All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the specification development process to the ENERGY STAR Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Specification Development webpage at [www.energystar.gov/newspeccs](http://www.energystar.gov/newspeccs).

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 and [kent.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kent.christopher@epa.gov) or John Clinger, ICF International, at [John.Clinger@icfi.com](mailto:John.Clinger@icfi.com), or 215-967-9407. Please direct any questions on the finalized test method to Bryan Berringer, DOE, at [Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov), or 202-586-0371.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process

Sincerely,



Christopher Kent,  
ENERGY STAR Product Manager  
Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers