



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 21, 2016

Dear ENERGY STAR® Light Commercial HVAC Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the final Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Light Commercial HVAC specification. Thank you for your participation in this specification revision process. The revised specification will take effect January 1, 2018, in alignment with new minimum efficiency standards for the same equipment.

Light Commercial HVAC products qualifying for ENERGY STAR under the Version 3.0 specification will offer purchasers more than six percent savings over conventional equipment. Light commercial heat pumps that certify to Version 3.0 are further distinguished by low temperature heating Coefficient of Performance (COP17) criteria, which help ensure efficient performance in cold climates. Also, light commercial variable refrigerant flow (VRF) multi-split systems have separate performance criteria from unitary equipment in Version 3.0 that better differentiate top performers in that subcategory. If all light commercial HVAC equipment sold in the United States were ENERGY STAR certified, the energy cost savings would grow to nearly \$550 million each year and nearly 17.3 billion pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented.

EPA received only one new comment on the final draft. The commenter identified that the COP47 heating performance metric for large unitary and VRF products included in the final draft matches the minimum required performance in 2018. Thus, EPA has left this level to be determined (TBD) in the final specification. EPA will release a proposed Version 3.1 in January 2017 that will address this level only, and will complete Version 3.1 well ahead of the January 1, 2018 effective date of the specification.

This specification was developed through a process that included the release of three draft specifications and supporting material such as the Light Commercial HVAC Energy and Cost Data spreadsheet, as well as two stakeholder meetings, and input from stakeholders. Stakeholder comments, previous drafts of the specification, and related materials are available on EPA's ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov/specifications. Click on the "View the Version 3.0 Development Process" link for Light Commercial Heating & Cooling.

Timeline and Next Steps:

EPA shares Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification to the next, so that purchasers can expect ENERGY STAR labeled products to fully meet the latest requirements upon their effective date. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline for products in scope for Version 3.0:

- Upon finalization of Version 3.0 on December 21, 2016, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 3.0 requirements, except for those products for which COP47 is TBD.
- Early in 2017, EPA will finalize Version 3.1 to address the pending COP47 requirements for Heat Pumps and VRF Heat Pumps with cooling capacities greater than or equal to 135,000 Btu/h and less than 240,000 Btu/h. Upon finalization, manufacturers will be free to have CBs certify all eligible products.
- As of June 1, 2017, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying all new product submittals to Version 2.2. Note, however, that existing certifications will remain valid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until January 1, 2018.

- Any Light Commercial HVAC products manufactured as of January 1, 2018, must meet Version 3.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 2.2 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 3.0 to EPA.

For currently certified products that are not in scope for Version 3.0 (i.e. 3 phase units with cooling capacity < 65,000 Btu/h), the new Federal minimum efficiency standards that are at or near the Version 2.2 ENERGY STAR levels take effect on January 1, 2017. In light of this, EPA has developed the following transition schedule:

- As of January 15, 2017, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals in this size category to Version 2.2. No new promotional materials for units in this size category that use the ENERGY STAR mark may be produced after January 15, 2017.
- Any Light Commercial HVAC products manufactured as of January 1, 2018, must be in the scope of Version 3.0 to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 2.2 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR, and brand owners must stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark in association with models in this size category.

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 revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your energy-efficient Light Commercial HVAC products. Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken, EPA, at Daken.Abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 and Jacob Bayus, ICF, at Jacob.Bayus@icf.com or 202-791-8871.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,



Abigail Daken, EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for HVAC