



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460
September 26, 2011

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

Climate Protection Partnership Division
U.S. EPA 6202J
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR[®] Insulation Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is re-launching the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program for residential insulation products with new program requirements and is now accepting new insulation partners and products. This comes after a lengthy re-evaluation of the program intended to improve the value and integrity of the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program. EPA thanks stakeholders for their patience and participation during this program enhancement period and temporary suspension.

Please note that EPA continues to work to finalize new program promotional requirements for air sealing product manufacturers, and this announcement only pertains to insulation products.

Program Purpose

The purpose of the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program is to educate end users about the importance of proper and safe use of residential insulation products and also to provide the manufacturers with tools to promote the program and their products.

Program Enhancements

The major 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program enhancements include:

- Clarifying which products are included and excluded in the program.
- Incorporating third-party testing and certification for each product line or family.
- Setting R-value and surface burn characteristic values as the two performance metrics for evaluation.
- Developing clear definitions and testing requirements for certification bodies, labs, and manufacturers.
- Developing new partner commitments that set clear requirements regarding posting product use and health and safety information in manufacturer literature and on the manufacturer website.
- Restructuring the language and messaging to make clear the differences between this program and other ENERGY STAR product programs, and that this program primarily aims to educate end users and not differentiate higher performing products.

The program graphics remain unchanged, but will now be referred to as the ***Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR Educational Graphics***. These graphics will be used to: 1) identify insulation products that have gone through required third-party testing and certification and 2) promote sealing and insulating of residential homes.

New Program Documents

As part of the program enhancement effort, EPA has developed the following new program documents:

- Residential Insulation Manufacturer Partner Commitments
- Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR Definitions and Testing Requirements V 1.0

These program documents, as well as stakeholder comments, EPA responses to comments, and webinar presentations, can be found on the Home Insulation Products Program Enhancements webpage: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.insulation_spec

Applying for Partnership

As of the re-launch date, the 'Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR' Program will begin reviewing new applications for partnership into the program.

New partners must apply for the program by filling out and signing a [Manufacturer Partnership Agreement](#) and submitting the completed form to join@energystar.gov.

Current partners must also sign a [Manufacturer Partnership Agreement](#) within 9 months of the program re-launch date to commit to the new program requirements as outlined in the new Partner Commitments and Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR Definitions and Testing Requirements V 1.0. The completed Partnership Agreement must be submitted to join@energystar.gov. Current partners that do not recommit within this grace period will be considered inactive and forfeit the use of ENERGY STAR logo and graphics in any applications.

Third-Party Certification of Product Lines

Once a manufacturer's Partnership Agreement has been reviewed and approved by EPA, manufacturers should contact one of the EPA-recognized Insulation Certification Bodies (CBs). The CB's will be listed at the following website:

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=partners.enhanced_test_verification

Certification Bodies will provide manufacturers with information about:

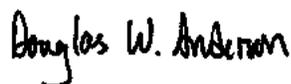
- The process for obtaining a written report from the CB.
- The CB approved ISO 17025 accredited labs to contact to provide product testing (if not already done)
- The required product information (such as installation instructions and diagrams) to be included in the CB issued report.

Stakeholder Webinar

EPA will be hosting a webinar to explain the new program requirements and answer stakeholder questions on **Wed, October 12, 2011 at 1:00 PM EDT**. Stakeholders interested in participating in the discussion should RSVP to insulation@energystar.gov by **Friday, October 7, 2011**.

Thank you for your interest and participation in the Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR program. Stakeholders with questions or concerns can leave a message in the general box at insulation@energystar.gov or contact Doug Anderson, EPA, at anderson.doug@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Doug Anderson,
U.S. EPA
Seal and Insulate with ENERGY STAR Program Manager