



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 23, 2017

Dear ENERGY STAR® Residential Water Heaters Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is updating its amendment to the ENERGY STAR Residential Water Heaters specification to refine the definition of solar water heaters and allow for the certification of solar photovoltaic (PV) water heaters. This change will not affect currently certified products.

In late July, EPA proposed an amendment to the ENERGY STAR Residential Water Heater specification correcting the UEF criteria for electric water heaters. While EPA received no comments on this amendment, EPA did receive a request to add photovoltaic water heaters to the specification scope. EPA has reviewed this request and found that these water heaters perform efficiently and that their test results are directly comparable to those of solar thermal products already covered by the specification. As such, EPA is including a revised definition of solar water heaters, as outlined below, along with the corrections previously outlined as part of the Version 3.2 specification. Photovoltaic water heaters will be subject to the same requirements and use the same test procedures as other solar water heaters. Their inclusion in the definition of "Solar Water Heater" will allow a more diverse set of ENERGY STAR certified solar-based water heating products.

Proposed Solar Water Heater Definition (Section 1.A.c. in the specification):

- c. Solar water heaters include a collector and storage tank, and use the sun's energy to heat water using one of the five basic types of solar water heating systems:
 - i. forced circulation (includes both direct and indirect systems),
 - ii. integrated collector and storage,
 - iii. thermosiphon,
 - iv. self-pumped, or
 - v. photovoltaic (PV).

Comments or concerns about this additional change may be submitted by **September 6, 2017**, to WaterHeaters@energystar.gov. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR water heater product development webpage unless the submitter requests otherwise. EPA will post the final amended specification (including the electric storage water heater UEF corrections) promptly after comments are received.

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, Daken.Abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 and Jacob Bayus at ICF, Jacob.Bayus@icf.com or 202-791-8871.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Daken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "D".

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program