



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 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 finalizing the Version 3.1 amendments to the ENERGY STAR Residential Water Heaters specification. These amendments enable products to be certified using the Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) metric and Uniform Test Method for Measuring the Energy Consumption of Water Heaters (10 CFR Appendix E to Subpart B of Part 430). Products may be certified to Version 3.1 effective immediately. Products certified under Version 3.0 are not required to recertify, but to the extent brand owners retest qualifying models using the UEF metric, you are encouraged to update your certification.

Anticipating FTC use of the UEF on the consumer-facing EnergyGuide, EPA will begin sorting the ENERGY STAR qualified product list for residential water heaters by UEF. As such, brand owners may wish to promptly update certifications with UEF data in order to ensure that products are appropriately sorted on the ENERGY STAR Product Finder tool for water heaters. Brand owners certifying new water heaters using UEF need not report EF, thermal efficiency, or standby loss.

EPA received multiple stakeholder comments on the proposed Version 3.1 specification. A comment response document, containing a summary of comments received and explanations of EPA's response in each case, and all other related materials are available on EPA's ENERGY STAR [Residential Water Heaters product development webpage](#).

Notable changes to the Version 3.1 specification from those proposed by EPA on March 27, 2017 include:

- The first-hour rating for electric water heaters, according to the UEF test procedure, is set to 45 gallons instead of the 46 gallons that was proposed. EPA agrees with stakeholders that this is accurate per the rounding requirements specified in 10 CFR 429.17.
- EPA has decided *not* to adopt the optional Critical Fault Alarm requirement as proposed in the draft specification. EPA believes a critical fault alarm requirement would greatly benefit the adoption of efficient water heaters by reducing the occurrence of emergency replacement of failed water heaters. However, feedback regarding connected water heaters led EPA to conclude that addressing fault detection as an element of a more comprehensive look at connected functionality would be more effective. EPA is pleased to hear that industry is trending toward fault recognition and alarms, and looks forward to further discussion during the development of a Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR specification.

Please direct any 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. Please direct questions about test methods to Catherine Rivest at DOE, Catherine.Rivest@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-7335.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

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