



THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION

ENERGY STAR® PRODUCTS

DIRECTIVE NO. 2021-01

SUBJECT: Implementation of Requirements for ENERGY STAR Laboratories

Date: 12/16/2021

This directive clarifies certain requirements found in the *Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Laboratories* for the ENERGY STAR program, and pertains to laboratory recognition, testing, and reporting results to a recognized Certification Body (CB). EPA-recognized laboratories are required to comply with all EPA written policies, including FAQs, directives, and other written instructions.

Recognition Requirements

Per the Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Laboratories for the ENERGY STAR program, EPA-recognized laboratories are required to maintain accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025, or participate in an EPA-recognized Certification Body's supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing laboratory program (WMTL/SMTL), as described in Appendix A of the Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Certification Bodies for the ENERGY STAR program.

Laboratories that have had an application for recognition denied by EPA or had their recognition suspended or revoked must wait at least six (6) months before reapplying. Laboratories are responsible for maintaining updated scopes of accreditation and submitting those to EPA (Certification@energystar.gov) to reflect any changes to scopes relevant to ENERGY STAR prior to expiry of current scopes. Per the *Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Laboratories* for the ENERGY STAR program, major changes in a test method for which a laboratory is recognized also necessitate a Scope of Accreditation update to reflect the newly required test method.

Verification Testing and Sample Selection

EPA and Certification Bodies select specific ENERGY STAR models for verification testing. Laboratories may not suggest to a CB that any particular model be tested, and are required to follow CB instructions if involved in the procurement of specific samples.

Results and Reporting

Per ISO/IEC 17025-2017 Section 7.4, laboratories shall have a procedure for the transportation, receipt, handling, protection, storage, retention, and disposal or return of test or calibration items, including all provisions necessary to protect the integrity of the test or calibration item, and to protect the interests of the laboratory and the customer. EPA-recognized laboratories are expected to have an agreement in place with the client prior to testing about the handling of tested unit(s) after testing is complete.

The laboratory may not allow clients to repair or replace a unit during verification testing when a potential defect is identified, unless explicitly allowed by the test method and approved by EPA. Laboratories should halt testing immediately when a potential defect is identified and contact the CB for further instructions.

In the event of a test failure, the laboratory should not dispose of the relevant unit(s) until a final disqualification decision is made by EPA.

For all test reports submitted to EPA-recognized CBs, laboratories are required to submit photographs of the unit(s) tested that clearly show any identifying information affixed to the product such as serial number markings or product manufacture information. If the ENERGY STAR product specification requires documentation to accompany the product, such as installation instructions, the laboratory should submit a copy of the documentation with the test report.