Central Air Conditioner and Air-Source Heat Pump (CAC/ASHP) products are certified based on a combination of products – the indoor unit (coil) and outdoor unit. In cases where the coil is manufactured by a different company than the outdoor unit, certification bodies (CBs) will need to coordinate testing based on the availability of outdoor units from previously verified system manufacturer combinations. It is EPA’s intention that the verification of ICM combinations will impose no additional burden on system manufacturers.

Selection
For Independent Coil Manufacturers (ICM) combinations, the outdoor unit will be drawn from among those models listed in the ENERGY STAR® program by the system manufacturer. Verification testing selections are required to include an outdoor model that has been verified to perform at least at 95% of its rating as part of the system manufacturer’s combination within the previous three years. If available, the CB is required to conduct verification testing of the ICM combination using a unit sample that was verified. Otherwise, the CB is required to obtain an outdoor unit for testing from a model that was part of a combination verified within the last three years. [Note: Under this scenario, each outdoor unit previously verified would need to have been at least 95% of its rating.] If no outdoor model that can be paired with the ICM indoor model has been verified within the past three years with at least 95% of its rating, a system that includes a relevant outdoor unit should be tested as soon as possible as part of the planned verification testing for system manufacturer combinations. The ICM combination should be verified after that occurs, assuming there is at least one outdoor unit available from the system combination tested that is verified to be at least 95% of rated efficiency.

Sample Size
Per Directive 2011-04, the multiple test sample approach is relevant for most ICM combinations as it applies to products covered by federal energy conservation standards. For this multiple test sample approach, four models of the indoor unit from the ICM should be available for testing. These four models are required to each be paired with the same selected outdoor unit sample. In the event that a partner opts to follow the single test sample approach for certification, only one ICM model is required to be paired with the outdoor unit sample.