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



OFFICE OF AIR AND
RADIATION

April 23, 2019

Dear ENERGY STAR® CAC/ASHP Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the enclosed [Draft 1 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR® Central Air Conditioner and Air-Source Heat Pump \(CAC/ASHP\) specification](#). EPA plans to hold a stakeholder meeting on **May 7, 2019** to discuss the Draft 1 specification in greater detail. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on this Draft to EPA no later than **May 23, 2019**.

Background

The ENERGY STAR program helps businesses and individuals save money and protect the environment by identifying products with superior energy efficiency. EPA monitors market and technology developments, looking for opportunities to more fully serve stakeholders, and to drive increased energy savings. This proposal seeks to take advantage of several such opportunities. Recently, manufacturers of ASHP have started offering products that better suit colder climates. In concert with this, many regions with cold climates have become increasingly interested in efficient electric heating. In response, EPA proposes climate differentiated requirements and labels for cold climate capable products.

Additionally, staged and variable capacity air conditioners and heat pumps have become more common and less expensive. By adjusting better for partial load, such units provide increased comfort to consumers along with efficiency gains.

Proposal Summary

Draft 1 Version 6.0 proposes the following changes and identifies other areas for further discussion:

- **Climate-differentiated Recognition for Heat Pumps:** EPA proposes differentiating ASHPs that meet performance requirements suitable for cold climates from ASHPs meeting SEER, EER, and HSPF requirements for moderate and hot climates. This change in approach would involve tailored versions of the ENERGY STAR label – one indicating cold climate qualification and another indicating moderate/hot climate qualification. CACs will continue to use the standard ENERGY STAR label.
- **Definitions:** Definitions have been added to clarify the proposed regional requirements.
- **Performance Criteria:** For Cold Climate ASHPs, EPA proposes higher HSPF and lower EER requirements, and two additional criteria have been added: COP @ 5°F and Percentage of Rated Capacity @ 5°F. EPA proposes retaining current ENERGY STAR levels for EER and HSPF for CACs

and Moderate and Warm Climate ASHPs. For all products, EPA proposes a higher SEER level, in recognition of the efficiency typically expected of staged and variable capacity units.

- **Staged and Variable Capacity:** EPA is proposing that all ENERGY STAR certified units have at least two capacity stages or are continuously variable.
- **Test Method:** A test method reference has been added for the COP and Percentage of Rated Capacity criteria defined at 5°F, referring to the federal test method for CAC/ASHP units, 10 CFR part 430 Subpart B, Appendix M1 for the very low temperature Heating Test condition.

More details regarding these elements are included in note boxes throughout the draft specification.

Comment Submittal Process

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to CAC-ASHP@energystar.gov by **May 23, 2019**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR CAC-ASHP Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Meeting

EPA plans to host a stakeholder webinar on **May 7, 2019 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm ET** to discuss the Draft 1 document and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Stakeholders interested in participating in this discussion should RSVP to CAC-ASHP@energystar.gov by **May 3, 2019**. Stakeholders are encouraged to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date.

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken, EPA, at daken.abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375, and Julia Hegarty, ICF, at julia.hegarty@icf.com or 202-862-1163. For test procedure inquiries, please contact Antonio Bouza, U.S. Department of Energy, at antonio.bouza@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-9870. Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft 1 document. I look forward to working with you over the next several months to develop the Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC/ASHP specification.

Sincerely,



Abigail Daken, Manager
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program

Enclosures:

[Draft 1 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR CAC-ASHP Specification](#)

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