



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

March 28, 2022

Dear ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Light Commercial HVAC Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share the final [ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Light Commercial HVAC Specification](#) with stakeholders. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort to contribute feedback that has informed this specification revision process.

EPA revised this specification in response to the forthcoming increase in stringency of federal minimum efficiency requirements for HVAC equipment that will go into effect on January 1, 2023. As the 2023 requirements are more stringent than those posed by the current Version 3.1 specification, EPA sought to update the ENERGY STAR criteria for Light Commercial HVAC products in parallel.

Version 4.0 requirements will be effective on January 1, 2023. Light Commercial HVAC equipment certifying to ENERGY STAR under the Version 4.0 specification will offer a savings of more than 12% over a conventional model. If all Light Commercial HVAC products in the United States met these new requirements, the energy cost savings would grow to more than \$3 billion each year and more than 125 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented.

This specification was developed through a process that included the release of two draft specifications. Stakeholder comments, previous drafts of the specification, and related materials are available on the [ENERGY STAR Light Commercial HVAC Version 4.0 Specification Development webpage](#).

EPA received only one comment in response to the Final Draft specification, which supported the IEER levels for commercial unitary air conditioners (CUACs) and commercial unitary heat pumps (CUHPs) and supported recognition of cold climate performance for very small CUHPs. In addition, the comment urged EPA to consider several additional changes in future specifications, which are addressed in the "Considerations for Future Revisions" section of the final specification.

EPA received no comments on the very small cold climate heat pump proposal, and we have included the criteria unchanged in the final specification. Given the difference between the first draft and the final draft for these criteria, EPA will wait until April 19 to consider them final. Any stakeholders with further comments may submit them to

[LCHVAC@energystar.gov](mailto:LCHVAC@energystar.gov) until that time. All comments will be posted unless the submitter requests otherwise.

### **Timeline and Next Steps**

EPA shares partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification to the next, so that consumers can expect ENERGY STAR labeled products to fully meet the latest requirements upon their effective date. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline:

- Effective immediately, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 4.0 requirements.
- As of August 15, 2022, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 3.1. Note, however, that existing certifications will remain valid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until January 1, 2023.
- Any Light Commercial HVAC product manufactured as of January 1, 2023, must meet Version 4.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 3.1 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and the product finder will only include models certified to Version 4.0.

ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to consumers or end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however, the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

### **Need for Amendment in the Next 12 Months**

EPA expects to revisit this specification in the next 12 months but will avoid triggering recertification of products due to this amendment. Specifically, EPA expects to:

- Consider updating the specification to reference a single test method and one set of criteria (SEER2, EER2, and HSPF2),
- Review the criteria and revise the test method for small and large VRF products, based on anticipated DOE action, and
- Add cold climate recognition for unitary products.

Please direct any questions to Abigail Daken, EPA, at [daken.abigail@epa.gov](mailto:daken.abigail@epa.gov) or 202-343-9375, and Emmy Feldman, ICF, at [emmy.feldman@icf.com](mailto:emmy.feldman@icf.com) or 202-862-1145. For test procedure inquiries, please contact Catherine Rivest, U.S. Department of Energy, at (202) 586-7335 or [catherine.rivest@ee.doe.gov](mailto:catherine.rivest@ee.doe.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Abigail Daken, Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR for HVAC

Enclosures:

[ENERGY STAR Light Commercial HVAC Version 4.0 Specification](#)