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



OFFICE OF AIR AND
RADIATION

November 17, 2022

Dear ENERGY STAR® Room Air Conditioner Brand Owners and Other Interested Parties,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sharing the [Draft 2, ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner Version 5.0, as well as a draft Version 6.0 specification](#). EPA welcomes stakeholder input on these specifications; please provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than December 22, 2022. EPA will hold a stakeholder webinar on December 1, 2022 from 2 pm to 4 pm EST to discuss this draft with interested parties. Stakeholders interested in attending the webinar should register [here](#).

In response to ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioners Version 5.0, Draft 1, EPA received comments from stakeholders that were both supportive and concerned with the proposal. While the concerned stakeholders expressed support and understood the need for revising the ENERGY STAR specification, they indicated that the proposed changes are significant and that qualifying product for the 2024 cooling season timeframe would be challenging at the proposed levels. Additionally, numerous stakeholders expressed concern regarding selection of products should the Draft 1 levels take effect now. They proposed setting an interim specification, with another increase seeking additional savings after the DOE standard takes effect.

Consistent with these suggestions, EPA is releasing this Draft 2 Version 5.0 with somewhat eased levels, that would be in effect until DOE's new federal minimum standards require compliance, as well as proposing levels for a Version 6.0 that would go into effect on the new federal standards compliance date. Key elements of Version 5.0, Draft 2 and Version 6.0 proposals include:

Revised Efficiency Criteria

EPA is proposing that to qualify for ENERGY STAR Version 5.0, room air conditioners within product classes 3-5b and 8-16 must be 35% more efficient than the 2014 minimum federal efficiency standards, whereas the proposed levels for product classes 1, 2, 6, and 7 remain the same as the levels proposed in Draft 1. Those levels are 19-28% more efficient than the current federal minimum standards.

For Version 6.0, EPA is proposing efficiency requirements that equal or outperform DOE's new federal minimum standards by 10% for all product classes. Following this Draft 2 proposal, EPA will separate the two specifications and pause in the development of Version 6.0 until DOE finalizes the federal minimum standard. At that time, EPA will release a Draft 2 Version 6.0 that is informed by the DOE levels and timing.

Optional 'Connected' Criteria

EPA is proposing to simplify and eliminate the requirement for demand response testing and instead require compliance with either one of the two dominant demand response communications protocols, OpenADR 2.0B or with CTA-2045B. Furthermore, with the simplification of the connected criteria,

EPA plans to discontinue the 5% energy use allowance for connected products.

Sound Performance Reporting

While many stakeholders expressed support for a sound performance reporting requirement, some stakeholders expressed concerns regarding inconsistencies in the way that sound pressure testing is conducted across test methods and manufacturers. As such, EPA will not be requiring sound pressure reporting for ENERGY STAR certification at this time but does encourage identification or development of a consensus industry standard for testing sound for these products.

Stakeholders are requested to provide any comments on the Version 5.0 Draft 2 and Version 6.0 specification **no later than December 22, 2022**. Please send comments via e-mail to appliances@energystar.gov. All comments received will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner Version 5.0 development page](#), unless the submitter specifically requests that comments remain confidential.

Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov or (202) 343-9120 or Steve Leybourn at Steve.Leybourn@icf.com or (202) 862-1566.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Katharine Kaplan, Manager, Product Development and Product Administration
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products

Enclosures:

[ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner Version 5.0, Draft 2, and Version 6.0 Specification](#)
[ENERGY STAR Version 5.0 Room Air Conditioner Draft 2 Data & Analysis Package](#)

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