

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

May 12, 2021

Dear ENERGY STAR® Residential Refrigerator and Freezer Manufacturers, Cooler Manufacturers, and Other Interested Parties:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share the [ENERGY STAR Version 5.1 Consumer Refrigeration Products Draft specification](#), which proposes to amend the scope to include coolers, a type of miscellaneous refrigeration product (MREF) also known as wine coolers and beverage centers. Expanding the scope of the specification will allow consumers of coolers to identify the best in energy efficiency. EPA will host a stakeholder webinar regarding the Draft specification on May 25, 2021. Please register [here](#) if you plan to attend.

This amendment to the residential refrigerators and freezers specification, when final, will be published as ENERGY STAR Version 5.1 Consumer Refrigeration Products specification. Manufacturers will be able to certify products meeting the new definition immediately upon publication, and currently certified products will not be affected. Stakeholders may provide comments to EPA on these proposed changes no later than June 23, 2021. A [data package](#) that provides EPA's dataset, proposed levels, and savings associated with this Draft accompanies this mailing.

#### Proposal Summary

- **Name:** EPA has changed the product name from "Residential Refrigerators and Freezers" to "Consumer Refrigeration Products" to align with DOE.
- **Definitions:** EPA has included new definitions for Consumer Refrigeration Product, All-Refrigerator, Miscellaneous Refrigeration Product, Cooler, Combination Cooler Refrigeration Product, Freestanding Cooler, Freestanding Compact Cooler, Built-in Cooler, and Built-in Compact Cooler. Additional definitions were updated to align with DOE.
- **Scope:** The scope has been expanded to include coolers.
- **Certification Criteria:** EPA has proposed four cooler product classes – built-in compact coolers, built-in coolers, freestanding compact coolers and freestanding coolers – and set annual energy consumption levels at 10% - 30% less than federal standard measured energy use.
- **Connected:** EPA has observed dwindling interest in demand response programs for residential refrigerators and most other traditional appliances. For this reason, EPA is shifting the Agency's technical and educational focus to demand response capability for larger loads. EPA believes the consumer value of connected appliances remains and the market will reward the best implementations. As such, EPA will not provide a credit for demand response capable coolers. Further, EPA intends to review the connected credit for other appliances as their ENERGY STAR criteria are revised.

EPA welcomes stakeholder input on this proposed amendment. Given the current circumstances, EPA is allowing extra time for ENERGY STAR comments. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit any comments to [appliances@energystar.gov](mailto:appliances@energystar.gov) by June 23, 2021. All comments received will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR Version 5 Consumer Refrigeration Products specification development webpage](#) unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Please direct any specific questions to Ga-Young Park, EPA, at [Park.Ga-Young@epa.gov](mailto:Park.Ga-Young@epa.gov) or (202) 564-1085, and Morganne Blaylock at ICF, at [Morganne.Blaylock@icf.com](mailto:Morganne.Blaylock@icf.com) or (202) 862-2952.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ga-Young Park". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ga-Young Park  
Product Manager for Appliances  
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products