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



OFFICE OF AIR AND  
RADIATION

October 11, 2018

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computers Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing the ENERGY STAR Computers Test Method as updated by the Department of Energy (DOE), for use with the [ENERGY STAR Version 7.0 Computers specification](#). This update addresses testing questions on alternative low power modes, products that exhibit cyclical behavior in long or short idle mode, and products with a battery that may not be removed by the end-user. Computer products tested to the previous test method and certified to Version 7.0 are not affected by this change.

As part of the vetting process, stakeholders presented one comment regarding the ENERGY STAR Computers Test Method updates questioning the necessity of section 6.3 regarding Alternative Low Power Mode (ALPM). DOE notes that the purpose of the ALPM language is to indicate how to run the ALPM test itself, and not indicate under what conditions ALPM is used in the metric calculations. Such calculations are described below. Thus, DOE has not modified the test language as proposed.

EPA would also like to provide some additional clarification regarding alternative low power modes that may be applied to the Version 7.0 specification.

- In calculating Typical Energy Consumption in Section 3.5 for Notebooks, Desktops, and Integrated Desktops that use an Alternative Low Power Mode in place of System Sleep Mode and Long Idle Mode, power in Alternative Low Power Mode ( $P_{ALPM}$ ) may be used in place of both the power in Sleep ( $P_{SLEEP}$ ) and the power in Long Idle ( $P_{LONG\_IDLE}$ ) in Equation 1 if the Alternative Low Power Mode measured power is less than or equal to 10 watts. In such instances, ( $P_{SLEEP} \times T_{SLEEP}$ ) and ( $P_{LONG\_IDLE} \times T_{LONG\_IDLE}$ ) are replaced by ( $P_{ALPM} \times T_{SLEEP}$ ) and ( $P_{ALPM} \times T_{LONG\_IDLE}$ ).
- Products that have an alternative low power mode should be set to activate after no more than 30 minutes of user inactivity and the speed of any active 1 Gb/s or faster Ethernet network link should be reduced when transitioning to Sleep Mode or Off Mode. Alternatively, the links can enter Energy Efficient Ethernet state when transitioning to Alternative Low Power Mode, if applicable.

Please contact me at [Fogle.Ryan@epa.gov](mailto:Fogle.Ryan@epa.gov) or 202-343-9153 or John Clinger, ICF, at [John.Clinger@icf.com](mailto:John.Clinger@icf.com) or (215) 967-9407 with questions or concerns regarding the specification. For any test method questions, please contact Jeremy Domm, U.S. Department of Energy, [Jeremy.Domm@EE.Doe.Gov](mailto:Jeremy.Domm@EE.Doe.Gov), or 202-586-9870. For any other Computer related questions, please contact [computers@energystar.gov](mailto:computers@energystar.gov). Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Fogle  
EPA Manager, ENERGY STAR for IT and Data Center Products

Enclosures:  
[ENERGY STAR Version 7.0 Computers Specification \(Rev. October 2018\)](#)

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EPA (Climate Protection Partnerships Division) - ENERGY STAR  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20460 US