



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 2, 2020

Dear ENERGY STAR® Water Cooler Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing the [Draft 1 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Water Cooler Product Specification](#). This draft includes proposals in response to stakeholder feedback on the previously released [discussion guide](#). The deadline to provide comments on this Draft 1 specification is **Tuesday, July 14, 2020**.

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 increase market adoption of products that meet consumer demands while offering great energy performance. The ENERGY STAR specification development process is an opportunity to review the current specification (Version 2.0, in effect since 2014) for additional savings opportunities and update multiple sections for clarity, adjusting the scope and criteria as needed. EPA is launching the development of the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Water Cooler specification with proposed adjustments to the criteria to provide further differentiation where necessary, primarily in categories that use more energy in standby and that make up the bulk of ENERGY STAR sales.

Proposal Summary

The changes proposed in the Draft 1 are summarized below. More details regarding these topics, EPA rationale, and specific requests for comment are included in note boxes throughout the draft specification.

- **Definitions:** This draft includes a definition for “Hot, Cook, and Cold Units” to allow this category to be identified in the ENERGY STAR Product Finder. Adjustments have also been made to the definitions within the Water Source and Water Conditioning sections, to clarify which products should be recognized by each designation and reduce confusion regarding categorization in the ENERGY STAR Qualified Products List and in unit shipment data reported to EPA. The definition for “Compartment-type Water Cooler” has been removed as there does not appear to be a market presence for these units.
- **Scope:** EPA is expanding the scope of the specification to include products that dispense sparkling, flavored, and alkaline water, in addition to hot and cold water. EPA excludes from scope water coolers that have provisions for making, storing, and dispensing small amounts of ice.
- **Certification Criteria:** To continue to recognize the most efficient water coolers in each category, EPA is revising the criteria for Hot and Cold & Hot, Cook, and Cold Conditioned Storage units as these offer the greatest energy savings improvement per unit and also represent the majority of current ENERGY STAR shipments.
- **Test Modes:** While the test method has not changed, additional sections are explicitly referenced in this draft to include a requirement that On Mode with Water Draw Performance (OMP) for Cold Water Draw and Hot Water Draw must be reported.

- **Alternative Refrigerants:** EPA is interested in highlighting products that use alternative, low global warming potential (low-GWP) refrigerants across product categories and is requiring that water coolers report the refrigerant type and charge.

Comment Submittal Process

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to watercoolers@energystar.gov by **Tuesday, July 14, 2020**. All comments will be posted to the [ENERGY STAR Water Coolers Product Development website](#) unless the submitter requests otherwise.

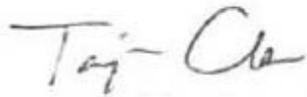
Stakeholder Meeting

EPA plans to host a stakeholder webinar on **Wednesday, June 24, 2019 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm EST** to outline the Draft 1 specification and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Stakeholders interested in participating in this discussion [should register at this link](#) by **Monday, June 22, 2020**.

Please direct any specific questions to Tanja Crk, EPA, at Crk.Tanja@epa.gov or 202-566-1037, and Julia Hegarty, ICF, at julia.hegarty@icf.com or 202-862-1163.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,



Tanja Crk, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Commercial Food Service, Vending, Water Coolers

Enclosures:

[Draft 1 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Water Cooler Specification](#)
[Draft 1 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Water Cooler Data Package](#)