



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 24, 2017

Dear ENERGY STAR® Furnace Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a modest revision to the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Furnace specification that removes the no longer relevant furnace fan efficiency ($e \leq 2.0\%$) requirement and replaces it with the requirement that all ENERGY STAR furnaces must be equipped with an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM). No currently certified products would be affected by this revision.

This minor change enables the ENERGY STAR specification to recognize the implementation of a Federal test method for furnace fan efficiency and use of the Furnace Fan Efficiency (FER) metric by removing an ENERGY STAR requirement ("e") that conflicts with it. While EPA evaluated adoption of FER, the Agency has determined that requiring use of an ECM better aligns with program principles. More specifically, at present, EPA has been unable to identify FER levels that offer cost effective savings beyond those associated with the Federal minimum efficiency standards slated to take effect in 2019. Thus, there is no FER level EPA could set now that would be helpful to consumers beyond 2019. Additionally, basing the ENERGY STAR requirements on FER would require recertification of all products. Thus, it is unlikely that the effort to recertify furnace models as meeting the FER metric would provide a long-term benefit. Until 2019, however, high efficiency fans can deliver significant consumer savings. To account for this, EPA proposes requiring ECMs, which deliver greater efficiency by operating over a range of speeds to meet the needs of the situation. EPA expects that all currently certified furnaces meet this requirement.

If you have comments or concerns about this change, please submit them by **April 7, 2017**, to Furnaces@energystar.gov. Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, Daken.Abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 and Jacob Bayus at ICF, Jacob.Bayus@icf.com or 202-791-8871. Questions about the test methods should be directed to Catherine Rivest at the Department of Energy, Catherine.Rivest@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-7335. Barring any objections from stakeholders, EPA intends to finalize Version 4.1 by April 21, 2017, at which time manufacturers could immediately certify products to it.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken, Manager
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program