

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 17, 2016

Dear ENERGY STAR Television Brand Owner Partner:

With this letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing additional guidance concerning ENERGY STAR[®] certification of televisions (TVs) with features that adjust screen luminance.

Automatic Brightness Control

Automatic Brightness Control (ABC), which adjusts screen luminance depending on ambient light conditions, is a special function that can deliver significant energy savings and is accommodated by the ENERGY STAR television specification. TVs that ship with ABC, defaulted on may be tested with this special function enabled for purposes of ENERGY STAR certification as long as the user is not subsequently prompted to disable it (see Section 5.5 of the [ENERGY STAR Test Method](#)). EPA's intention is that ABC remain engaged, although ENERGY STAR recognizes the need to preserve means for the consumers to disable the function if they choose to. Further, it is EPA's expectation that consumers be notified of the energy implications of their choices as stated in Section 3.2.4 of the ENERGY STAR television specification, which requires that if consumers have the option of changing picture settings, the product will display on-screen information making clear the default picture setting is the setting under which the product qualified for ENERGY STAR.

Accordingly, for televisions certified with ABC or an equivalent energy saving function, it is not acceptable for the product to automatically disable the function under any circumstance. That is, no matter the consumer-selected deviation from the default tested mode or picture setting, ABC must remain enabled unless the consumer actively seeks to disable it without prompting from the TV. This disabling restriction applies to small changes to individual picture settings like backlight, brightness, and contrast or changes from one display mode (standard, sports, movie, dynamic, etc.) to another.

To ensure televisions certified with ABC perform consistently with the intent of the ENERGY STAR specification, ENERGY STAR certification bodies (CBs) will be asked, going forward, to confirm that ABC remains engaged when changes to picture settings (either at the master setting or the sub-setting level) are made. This will include changes from home/default mode to dynamic mode, for example, or adjustments to the brightness or other settings.

Other Screen Luminance Dimming Features

Since the last ENERGY STAR television specification revision, EPA has learned of a new feature that can temporarily reduce screen luminance in response to frequent scene changes or

rapid motion in video content. This feature can be known as "motion lighting" or "motion eye care" or by other names, and is distinct from the techniques many high-refresh-rate televisions use to reduce blur in moving images or to interpolate content between frames. Until the energy implications of this type of feature are better understood, EPA is requiring that it be disabled in setup menus for purposes of ENERGY STAR certification testing.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Katharine Kaplan at Kaplan.Katharine@epa.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Bailey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ann Bailey, Chief
ENERGY STAR Labeling Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency