



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

October 17, 2008

Dear ENERGY STAR Partners and Stakeholders:

In the past several weeks, the Department of Energy (the Department) received numerous partner and stakeholder comments concerning the upcoming change to the ENERGY STAR criteria for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Many of these comments expressed great concern regarding the labeling requirements for products which meet the Version 3.0 criteria, but will not meet the Version 4.0 criteria on the effective date December 2, 2008. Initially, the Department planned to allow products not meeting the new criteria to continue to no longer be sold as ENERGY STAR qualified after January 2, 2009. After that date, manufacturers would be required to remove or cover up the ENERGY STAR logo on packaging.

Due to the slowdown of the U.S. economy, many manufacturers have large inventories of products that will not qualify under Version 4.0. For the Department to force the removal of these products from shelves, the covering up of the ENERGY STAR label, and the product's re-introduction to the market as a non-qualified CFL would be extremely costly. As such, the Department's amended policy for the transition is as follows:

- The Department will extend the grace period for these products to continue being sold with the ENERGY STAR logo on the packaging. **On July 1, 2009, the Department will require that all products carrying the ENERGY STAR logo must meet Version 4.0 requirements.** All remaining products that do not meet these criteria will not be allowed to carry the ENERGY STAR label after July 1, 2009.
- Products that do not meet Version 4.0 as of December 2, 2008, will be removed from the qualified products list on www.energystar.gov, and will be moved to a separate "transition list." This list will help alleviate confusion regarding products that may still be carrying the logo, but which do not meet the new requirements.
- Products that complete requalification testing after the effective date of the criteria will be moved from the transition list back to the qualified list once DOE receives and accepts the necessary test reports.

The Department believes this course of action is prudent given the state of the economy and will not adversely impact the consumer or the ENERGY STAR program. These products will meet consumer demands and still save energy compared with incandescents. On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank all stakeholders for their support of the ENERGY STAR program during this transition process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard H. Karney".

Richard H. Karney, P.E.
ENERGY STAR Products Manager
U.S. Department of Energy