

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 18, 2013

Dear Set-top Box Equipment Manufacturer, Service Provider or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your feedback on this Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Version 4.1 specification for set-top boxes (STBs). The release of this draft reflects the renewal of EPA's effort to review the formerly finalized Version 4.0 requirements and provide refinements based on the market's evolution since the finalization of Version 4.0.

Through engagement with a range of stakeholders over the past year and close attention to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Consumer Electronics Association's (CEA) work on set top box test methods, EPA's Draft 1 includes the following proposed revisions:

- **Test Method:** EPA intends to harmonize with the proposed U.S. DOE set-top box test procedure released in January 2013 (proposed for incorporation into 10 CFR Parts 429 and 430) for testing STBs. Additionally, EPA intends to harmonize with CEA 2043 for testing Displayless Video Gateways. Since neither the DOE test procedure nor CEA 2043 are final, EPA will continue to monitor their development process and make adjustments to the specification as necessary.
- **Multi-room Configurations:** Based on current market conditions, EPA is proposing to increase the multi-room allowance to 40 kWh/yr from the 30 kWh/yr reflected in Version 4.0 given the higher functionality of new server STBs. Coupled with refinements to the testing of multi-room scenarios, EPA believes the proposed new requirement to be reflective of the current market for these configurations.
- **Thin-client/Remote Boxes:** EPA has received stakeholder information that indicates Thin-client/Remote box energy efficiency has improved more quickly than anticipated in Version 4.0. EPA intends for the ENERGY STAR requirements to highlight the top performers in a product category when the specification takes effect. In order to recognize leadership products in early 2014, EPA is proposing a reduced allowance for Thin-Client/Remote boxes in this Draft 1.
- **MIMO WiFi HNI Allowance:** EPA proposes this new allowance to reflect the higher functionality of new server STBs.
- **Over-the-Top IP STBs:** EPA is proposing a separate base category for over-the-top IP STBs, given their more limited functionality. Doing so allows EPA to recognize top performers in this category as well as more highly-functional IP STBs distributed by service providers.
- **Displayless Gateways:** EPA has included a proposed definition and test method for Displayless Video Gateways to encompass those devices that may not have a direct video output.

EPA has removed the Version 4.0 eligibility requirements from the ENERGY STAR website. Version 4.0 will not take effect but instead will be replaced by Version 4.1. The effective date for Version 4.1 will be announced later in this review process.

Please submit comments on the issues above to stbs@energystar.gov by April 15.

EPA will also host an in -person meeting in Washington, DC, to discuss this Draft 1 specification on **Friday, March 29, from 10 am to 4pm Eastern Time**. Please RSVP by emailing stbs@energystar.gov by March 27. Call-in and webinar capability will be provided for remote attendees.

On behalf of EPA, I appreciate your participation in this effort. The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, product manufacturers, and other interested parties is critical to our success. If you know of others who may be interested in participating in this effort, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to stbs@energystar.gov to be added to the stakeholder contact list.

Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov, or 202-343-9120, or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at matt.malinowski@icfi.com or 202-862-2693. Please direct any questions regarding the DOE test procedure to Jeremy Domm, US DOE, at jeremy.domm@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-9870.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Administration