

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

September 20, 2013

Dear Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have developed a revised test method as a part of the ENERGY STAR Laboratory grade refrigerator and freezer specification revision and seek your comments on the enclosed draft.

The development of the Draft 2 Test method considered both comments received from stakeholders during this revision process as well as the results of DOE testing of various laboratory grade units. Please see below for the key modifications.

**Proposed Modifications to the Test Method**

The Draft 2 test method incorporates the following key modifications from the previous Draft 1 Test Method, dated October 2012:

- Update to the scope and definitions of product type
- Update to the Steady State requirements to state that the Cabinet temperature shall change less than  $\pm 0.5$  °C (0.9 °F) from one 24-hour period or refrigeration cycle to the next, instead of  $\pm 0.2$  °C (0.4 °C)
- Removed ambient lighting and radiant heat requirements from test setup
- Updated the volume measurement requirements to reflect an update to the industry test method
- Included ambient thermocouple placement requirements for chest type units
- Revised door opening requirements
- Removed defrost adequacy assurance test
- Added uniformity and stability reporting

**Non-qualified Product Test Data Assembly**

EPA is interested in continuing to assemble data on laboratory grade refrigerator and freezer energy performance and temperature uniformity test results, to enhance EPA's existing dataset. Data from all product sub-types would be appreciated, but to date, EPA has not had access to any data on non-general use models nor units operating below -30°C. As the specification development is a data driven process, EPA is only able to establish efficiency requirements for those product types for which we have performance data from an established test procedure.

**Next Steps**

EPA welcomes written comment from stakeholders on the modifications to the Test Method through Wednesday, October 23, 2013. Please send all comments and supporting information to [labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov](mailto:labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov). Along with the revised test method, we have posted a summary of the comments received on the previous test method along with responses, We have also posted a revised test reporting template.

All official EPA correspondences and specification documents will be posted throughout the specification development process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web page at [www.energystar.gov/newspecs](http://www.energystar.gov/newspecs). In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted to the product specific web page unless requested otherwise by the submitter

**Web based discussion on revised test method**

On Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 11AM EDT EPA and DOE will hold an online stakeholder meeting to discuss EPA and DOE's proposed draft test method and receive stakeholders' comments and concerns. Please RSVP to [labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov](mailto:labgraderefrigeration@energystar.gov) by Tuesday, October 15, 2013, to receive call-in information.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification development process.

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 and [kent.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kent.christopher@epa.gov) or Erica Porras, ICF International, at (202) 862-2972 or [erica.porras@icfi.com](mailto:erica.porras@icfi.com) with any questions or comments regarding the specification development process or the data assembly. For questions relating to the test method development or validation testing conducted, please contact Bryan Berringer at (202) 586-0371 or [bryan.berringer@ee.doe.gov](mailto:bryan.berringer@ee.doe.gov)

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Kent".

Christopher Kent  
Product Manager for ENERGY STAR  
Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers