

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 30, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Room Air Conditioner Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing amendments to the ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification. This Version 3.1 specification now harmonizes with the Department of Energy's (DOE's) amended energy conservation standards for Room Air Conditioners which incorporate provisions in the energy test method, 10 CFR 430 Appendix F, specific to standby and off mode energy consumption.

According to DOE, room air conditioners manufactured or imported on or after June 1, 2014, will need to demonstrate compliance with the minimum federal efficiency standards expressed in Combined Energy Efficiency Ratio (CEER). As such, EPA shared proposed amendments to the specification in a letter to stakeholders on April 17, 2014. EPA received four sets of comments in response to this proposal which are posted on the [ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification webpage](#).

In consideration of comments received, under the Version 3.1 specification, manufacturers may use CEER or EER for purposes of ENERGY STAR certification in accordance with the minimum efficiency standards that apply to their products. Language has been added to the final version under Table 5 that clarifies this for manufacturers.

Products certified to the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR specification will remain on the ENERGY STAR qualified product list. Manufacturers of these products will not need to re-test or submit additional documentation translating a product's EER rating to CEER to retain ENERGY STAR certification under the new Version 3.1 specification.

During this period of transition when efficiency performance information is reflected through the use of two metrics, EPA will remove efficiency performance information from the ENERGY STAR – Product Finder search results. Information captured on product specific Product Finder pages will include efficiency performance data and note the metric being used for assessment. This approach is consistent with other ENERGY STAR specifications undergoing a similar transitional period (e.g., ENERGY STAR Refrigerators and Freezers).

The Agency received limited feedback noting that EPA should sunset the ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification due to diminished energy savings beyond the forthcoming federal minimum efficiency standard. EPA understands that some manufacturers plan to deliver products that exceed the federal minimum and would like the ENERGY STAR program to continue to offer them differentiation for these more efficient products.

While the Version 3.1 specification is intended to be an interim step toward accommodating the new CEER metric, EPA is working to develop a Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR specification for room air conditioners that will offer increased differentiation between ENERGY STAR and the amended federal standards. EPA looks forward to releasing a Draft 1 for review in the near future and working with stakeholders to identify the energy savings opportunities available to room air conditioners.

Please direct any specific questions to Melissa Fiffer, EPA, at fiffer.melissa@epa.gov, 202-343-9494, or Jessica Lyman, ICF International at jessica.lyman@icfi.com, 202-862-1557. Room air conditioner test method questions should be directed to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Fiffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" being more prominent than the last name "Fiffer".

Melissa Fiffer, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances