



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 31, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR® Set-top Box Partner or Other Interested Party:

In light of numerous stakeholder questions regarding the power management requirements in the ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 specification, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making a clarification to the requirements that products be shipped with auto-power down (APD) and deep sleep functionality enabled.

EPA has learned from manufacturing partners who ship their set-top boxes to service providers that while they test their products with the service provider software loaded to ensure that the product can meet the ENERGY STAR APD requirements, they remove this software before shipping their products to the service provider. Thus, the product as shipped to the service provider will not meet the APD requirements. The service provider later loads their software onto the devices and APD capability is enabled.

Based on this understanding of the market, EPA is clarifying the Version 3.0 specification to allow for products destined for an ENERGY STAR Service Provider partner, where the partner manufacturer does not load the software prior to shipment, to qualify the product as ENERGY STAR without APD enabled by default. EPA will maintain the Service Provider Partner obligation to ensure that qualified set-top boxes continue to meet the requirements in the ENERGY STAR product specification for the duration of their deployment-including the APD capability. This clarification will be reflected as noted in bold below:

3.2.3 Auto Power Down (APD): Products that offer an APD feature shall meet the following requirements:

- i. **Products shipped with software from the manufacturer, shall ship with APD enabled by default**, with APD timing set to engage after a period of inactivity less than or equal to 4 hours.
- ii. All energy-related default settings shall persist until an end-user chooses to manually either (1) disable APD, or (2) modify the default settings.”

EPA plans to provide parallel clarification to Deep Sleep requirements in 3.2.4.

EPA believes that this proposed clarification more accurately reflects the structure of the market while not diminishing the viability of the APD requirements. Please contact Katharine Kaplan, EPA at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov or Rachel Unger, ICF International at rachel.unger@icfi.com with concerns about the above clarification. EPA intends to update and post the revised Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Set-top Box Eligibility Criteria in late September.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

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

Katharine Kaplan, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Set-top Boxes