



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 24, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR® Dehumidifiers Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a revision of the ENERGY STAR Version 2.1 Dehumidifiers specification. The current ENERGY STAR specification has been in place since October 2006. EPA's analysis of the market shows clear potential to revise the specification so as to save energy and provide more effective market differentiation.

In the upcoming revision, EPA will propose a single Energy Factor (EF) level for all capacities of dehumidifiers < 75 pints/day, for the following reasons:

- A single level encourages consumers to choose the most energy efficient model regardless of water removal capacity.
- Larger, more efficient units equipped with a humidistat will remove the same amount of water as smaller units equipped with a humidistat, but will do so faster using less energy.
- EPA understands that many dehumidifier purchases are made without a clear sense of required water removal capacity.
- Products are available which will provide consumers with sufficient energy bill saving to justify the purchase of more efficient, higher capacity units.

EPA expects to set the required efficiency level to effectively differentiate the most efficient dehumidifiers on the market. EPA is also considering requiring a marked humidistat dial, or digital readout, such that consumers can read the relative humidity setting. Another possible requirement is that consumers can set the dehumidifier to run at reduced capacity. EPA is testing units with this function to determine whether efficiency is maintained at reduced levels.

EPA's Data Analysis

EPA's understanding of product capabilities and our plans for this specification revision are based on both EPA qualified product data and AHAM's certification program data. EPA believes this data to be incomplete, most notably for products \geq 75 pints/day. EPA is seeking data on non-ENERGY STAR qualified models so that the Agency can propose efficiency requirements that more accurately reflect the performance of products currently on the market. Without complete data, EPA may be hindered from considering larger products in this ENERGY STAR specification. Based on data currently available to EPA, only limited efficiency gains may be possible, calling into question the value of the continuation of the program for the larger units. EPA also wishes to include data reflecting the difference between ducted whole-home units and standalone non-ducted units in the analysis it will complete during this specification revision process.

A robust data set including a range of currently available models in all size categories will help EPA set appropriate requirements that reflect the overall market. EPA will include in its analysis all data received by dehumidifiers@energystar.gov by December 17, 2010.

Next Steps

EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the revised specification in January 2011. As EPA moves forward with revising the current requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail updates, and stakeholder meetings.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Dehumidifier specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Dehumidifiers".

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 and Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at rduff@icfi.com or 202-862-1266.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program