

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



**OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION**

August 1, 2012

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the Final Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR® Audio/Video specification. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past year to contribute feedback to this product specification process. The effective date for this ENERGY STAR Audio/Video specification is May 1, 2013. This letter describes the Agency's final decisions regarding these new requirements and outlines the process for qualifying products under the new specification.

The new Version 3.0 specification replaces the Version 2.1 Tier 3 requirements initially scheduled to go into effect March 30, 2012. This new specification establishes new On Mode power consumption requirements for Blu-Ray players which are 30 percent more stringent than under the Version 2.1 Tier 2 specification. If all Blu-ray players sold in the United States meet the ENERGY STAR requirements, the savings in energy costs will grow to about \$4.5 million and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions from more than 5,000 vehicles.

This specification also establishes an allowance for multiple networking and control protocols (including Gigabit Ethernet or Wi-Fi protocols) implemented in a single product, and adds definitions for Consumer and Commercial Amplifiers to the specification to allow EPA to establish future efficiency criteria once data become available. EPA also found that the Auto Power Down (APD) requirement may be a barrier for some Commercial Amplifiers as they are required by their customers to be on and ready at any time. In the interest of ensuring ENERGY STAR products deliver on consumer expectations, EPA has amended the APD requirements to allow Commercial Amplifiers to ship with APD disabled as long as they meet the Idle Mode power requirements.

The Version 3.0 Audio/Video specification was developed through extensive engagement with stakeholders including numerous draft specifications and meetings. The enclosed Comment Response Document contains a summary of comments on the Final Draft specification and an explanation of EPA's response in each case. Stakeholder comments, previous draft versions of the specification and related materials can be found on the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs under the link for "Audio/Video."

Minor changes to the Version 3.0 specification since the Final Draft are summarized below:

- EPA added a radio-frequency (RF) remote to the list of characteristics defining a consumer amplifier, following stakeholder feedback that RF remotes are also used with consumer products. EPA further confirmed with manufacturers that remotes (whether IR or RF) are not used with commercial products.

- EPA has clarified in the Final Specification that the 2 watt adder shall only be applied once for either Wi-Fi or Gigabit Ethernet with wake capability even if a product supports both protocols and both provide wake capability.

Timeline and Next Steps:

EPA shares Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification to the next, so that consumers can expect ENERGY STAR labeled products to fully meet the latest requirements upon their effective date. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline:

- Effective August 1, 2012, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 3.0 requirements.
- After December 15, 2012, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 2.1 Tier 2. Note, however, that existing certifications will remain valid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until May 1, 2013.
- Any Audio/Video products manufactured as of May 1, 2013, must meet Version 3.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 2.1 Tier 2 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 3.0 to EPA.

Third-party Certification:

As a reminder, all new products must be certified by an EPA recognized CB before being labeled and marketed as ENERGY STAR. Upon satisfactory completion of all certification requirements, a CB will notify the partner that the product is ENERGY STAR qualified and will submit qualified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. For more information on the Third-party Certification program please visit www.energystar.gov/3rdPartyCert.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during the specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your energy-efficient Audio/Video products. If you have any questions or concerns about the specification or partnership process, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-98450 or Radulovic.verena@epa.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Best Regards,



Verena Radulovic, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:

Final Draft Version 3.0 Comment Response Document

Final Version 3.0 Program Requirements for ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products