

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 28, 2012

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

This letter is intended to inform all stakeholders that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to continue their efforts towards the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers. In addition, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is releasing Draft 1 of the Test method for Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers for stakeholder comment.

Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers Background

In 2007, during the development of the commercial food grade refrigeration specification, EPA announced plans to limit the scope of eligible products to only food grade equipment and began an evaluation to determine whether a specification for laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers would meet the ENERGY STAR program guiding principles. With the input of stakeholders, EPA developed a test method supplement to ASHRAE Standard 72-2005: Method of Testing Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers that was distributed to stakeholders on December 30, 2009. Based on test results provided by manufacturers reflecting the December 2009 test procedure, EPA released a Data Analysis and Framework Document on September 7, 2010 summarizing the findings from the data submitted by manufacturers.

Subsequent to the data collection process, DOE performed validation testing on the test method supplement for all products in the preliminary scope, except Ultra-Low-Temperature Laboratory Freezers (ULFs). As a result, DOE has made a number of proposed changes in the Draft 1 test method. Also in the Draft 1 test method, DOE has identified a preliminary approach for testing ULFs as well as a number of issues that it seeks stakeholder feedback to better inform validation testing on ULFs. All of the proposed changes and the issues on which DOE would specifically like feedback are all included in the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Laboratory Grade Refrigerators and Freezers Draft 1 Test Method (Rev. Sep-2012). The Draft 1 Test Method is posted to the product development webpage found at www.energystar.gov/newspecs. Comments and feedback on the Draft 1 Test Method are requested by October 31 2012, and may be submitted to LabGradeRefrigeration@energystar.gov.

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 help round out the limited data currently on hand. It is EPA's hope that during this interim period, manufacturers have had the opportunity to test a greater selection of their product offerings. 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 on which we have performance data from an established test procedure.

EPA plans to initiate another data call once the test method development is near the end. EPA will be sending out a notice to stakeholders asking them to complete data collection forms for laboratory grade refrigeration equipment based on the ENERGY STAR Test Method.

Ultra-Low-Temperature Laboratory Grade Freezers

EPA is monitoring the Commercial Building Energy Alliance (CBEA) efforts to develop a program specification to recognize energy efficient ULFs. However EPA has no plans to include this product type into the scope of the specification at this time.

Labs21 Conference Attendance

Erica Porras, a contractor to EPA providing technical and administrative support to the ENERGY STAR program, will be available to meet with stakeholders on behalf of the ENERGY STAR program at the upcoming Labs21 conference, to be held in San Jose, CA, from October 2-4, 2012. If you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the Lab Grade Refrigeration specification development process, please send your request to erica.porras@icfi.com or call 202-862-2972.

The ENERGY STAR Program

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and purchasers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products to help protect the environment. Products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that qualify their products to meet ENERGY STAR requirements may use the label as a tool to educate their customers about the enhanced value of these products.

More than 2,000 manufacturers currently participate in the program, qualifying over 40,000 product models across more than 65 product categories, including a broad array of consumer electronics and information technology products. (A complete list of ENERGY STAR products can be found at www.energystar.gov). More than 75% of Americans nationwide recognize the label, with 35% of households reporting that they knowingly purchased a qualified product within the past year.

The ENERGY STAR program benefits partners by benefiting their customers. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, prevented 170 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—equivalent to the annual emissions from 33 million vehicles—and saved more than \$18 billion on their utility bills.

Documents Posted to the Website

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/newspeccs. In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted to the product specific web page unless requested otherwise by the submitter.

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. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

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



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