

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 21, 2011

Dear Commercial Oven Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the revision of the ENERGY STAR® Commercial Oven Specification, with the explicit intention of considering the expansion of this product category to include Combination Ovens. Through this revision, EPA also intends to update the testing requirements for Convection Ovens.

Background

In 2007, EPA first evaluated the commercial oven market to identify categories suitable for ENERGY STAR specification development. At that time, it was determined that convection ovens offered the best opportunity for ENERGY STAR labeling based on: the availability of a well vetted and widely accepted test procedure; existence of a robust data set that demonstrated a range in energy efficiency performance; and significant energy saving and carbon emission reduction potential. EPA also indicated its intent to consider additional oven categories under subsequent revisions as test procedures are finalized and data is made available.

In September 2010, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) F26 Committee approved a revised ASTM F-2861-10 Test Standard for Combination Ovens. Since its release, manufacturers have been applying the new test method to their combination oven models to determine efficiencies and build a robust data set. Based on a preliminary analysis of the market and potential savings opportunity, EPA is now interested in expanding the ENERGY STAR Version 1.1 Commercial Oven specification to include Combination Ovens.

EPA will host a stakeholder webinar on December 15, 2011 to discuss the ENERGY STAR specification development process for Combination Ovens. More details about the stakeholder meeting and EPA's considerations while developing the Version 2.0 specification are provided below.

Combination Ovens

Over the next few months, EPA will work to develop efficiency criteria based on available cooking energy efficiency and idle performance data collected using the ASTM F-2861-10 Standard test method, and assemble data or other supporting information to help determine appropriate Draft 1 performance levels. The Agency anticipates that the Draft 1 proposal will include, but may not be limited to:

- Reference to the ASTM Standard F-2861-10, *Standard Test Method for Enhanced Performance of Combination Oven in Various Modes*, for use in measuring oven energy and water performance.
- Energy efficiency, idle and potable water rate requirements for all combination ovens that are designed to accept full-size (12 x 20 x 2¹/₂ - inch) hotel pans, including roll-in models, depending on available performance and market data.

- A placeholder for cooking energy efficiency requirements in combination-mode once a consistent test method is determined. In the meantime, EPA believes that steam and convection-mode cooking-energy tests should reflect the overall cooking performance in all three modes.

Additional Combination Oven Research

EPA is continuing to conduct research on the combination oven market and available technologies, and will be reaching out to manufacturers to discuss the following outstanding issues:

- Product-type clarification;
 - Convection Oven with moisture assist classification;
- Product family;
 - Performance levels within the product family;
 - Engineering designs and pan capacity;
- Water metric;
 - Gallons per cavity, gallons per pan.

Convection Ovens

In light of the proposed changes to the ASTM F-1496-99(2005) e1, *Standard Test Method for Performance of Convection Ovens*, and consistent with our commitment to ensure that all products are subject to third party certification as specifications are updated, all existing ENERGY STAR qualified convection ovens will need to be retested and certified by an EPA-recognized Certification Body to meet Version 2.0. EPA will work with convection oven stakeholders to finalize an appropriate timeframe for retesting and certification once the Version 2.0 takes effect.

The Version 2.0 development process also provides an opportunity for EPA to clarify existing Version 1.1 definitions or requirements, as needed. Therefore, stakeholders are encouraged to identify any areas for needed clarification at this time as well.

Performance Data Sheet

In determining appropriate performance levels for cooking energy efficiency, idle, and water consumption across the various modes, EPA intends to use data made available by the PG&E's Food Service Technology Center (FSTC) but is also interested in assembling additional data. Having a robust data set which includes a range of currently available models will help ensure that EPA sets the appropriate requirements that are reflective of the overall market. EPA will consider data transmitted via the attached spreadsheet and received by **January 20, 2012**.

Please note that manufacturer-provided test data used by EPA to determine ENERGY STAR performance levels does not need to be third-party certified. However, third-party certification will continue to be required for ENERGY STAR qualification under the Version 2.0 specification.

Stakeholder Webinar: December 15, 2011

EPA will host a commercial oven stakeholder webinar on December 15, 2011 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (EST). The following topics will be discussed during the webinar:

- Overview of the ENERGY STAR program and specification development process;
- Draft 1 proposal considerations;
- Stakeholder feedback and questions.

Stakeholders interested in participating in the webinar should RSVP to commercialovens@energystar.gov by December 12, 2011.

Comment Submittal

As EPA moves forward with developing these new requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail correspondence, and stakeholder meetings. EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the specification by **mid-February 2012** for stakeholder review and comment.

All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the specification development process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development webpage at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs. In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted to this webpage 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 Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (202) 862-1226 and aspitz@icfi.com with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Christopher Kent, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR Product Specification Development