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

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

March 15, 2004

Dear ENERGY STAR Residential Fixture Partner:

As a Partner in the Residential Light Fixture (RLF) Program, you are aware that the ENERGY STAR is awarded to fixtures with superior energy-efficiency that either enhances or maintains product performance. EPA routinely "raises the bar" to achieve this objective and protect the integrity of ENERGY STAR. With these goals in mind, EPA released the revised RLF technical specification Version 3.2 for qualifying fixture products in the Fall of 2003.

As EPA continues to work with industry to improve the quality of the ENERGY STAR program, research is being conducted on a number of performance characteristics to evaluate the appropriateness of the existing RLF technical specifications and/or to set new ENERGY STAR specification requirements where necessary. The intent of this notification is to remind partners of the existing ENERGY STAR specification requirements, and provide guidance about investing in research and design of new lighting technologies that may not meet future ENERGY STAR technical specifications. In keeping with ENERGY STAR policy, as part of the development process, partners and other industry stakeholders will be given the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed specification revisions before implementation. EPA does not anticipate a revision to the RLF technical specification before mid-2005.

The following section outlines research areas which may have a significant impact on future revisions to the RLF specification:

Magnetic Versus Electronic Ballast Requirement:
As indicated in the current specification Version 3.2, future ENERGY STAR technical specifications will require all fluorescent fixtures to use electronic ballasts. EPA strongly encourages partners intending to qualify fluorescent fixture models to take note of this future requirement.

Color Variance among Lamps:
Color variance among lamps has been a serious concern for consumers, and there have been many instances where a noticeable color difference may exist among lamps within the same batch of products. At present, EPA is conducting research on this subject to determine an acceptable color variance and an acceptable range of chromaticity in lamps that would be eligible for ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures. Based on the research, EPA may decide to establish new technical requirements for lamp color variance in future specifications. Results of the recently held Color Round Table at the Lighting Research Center on 2/26/04 are available at http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/programs/lightingTransformation/colorroundtable/index.asp.

Modular Ballasts:
Several component manufacturers have recently demonstrated the feasibility and cost effectiveness of easily removable ballasts. These ballasts avoid possible damage to the fixture

when removing 'hardwired' ballasts. EPA strongly encourages this trend for its benefits to consumers, and intends to research modular ballasts as a future specification requirement.

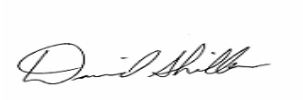
The remaining issues listed are areas of EPA concern in the current RLF specification Version 3.2:

Proprietary Pin-base Configurations:
Proprietary pin-bases are not eligible under the latest specification Version 3.2. EPA reminds partners that this latest specification requires ALL lamps used in qualifying indoor fixtures to utilize an ANSI standardized (ANSI C81.61) base configuration. Also, note that indoor fixtures using ANSI-IEC standardized lamps must meet ANSI C78.901-2001 or C78.81-2001 in order to meet ENERGY STAR guidelines. Partners must supply a manufacturer specification sheet for indoor fixtures using non-ANSI-IEC standardized lamps in order to meet ENERGY STAR requirements.

Photocell Controlled Circuit in Outdoor Fixtures:
EPA reminds partners that under Table 2A - Special Application in specification Version 3.2, for ENERGY STAR eligibility, outdoor models sold without individual photocells must include the following packaging language next to the ENERGY STAR mark: "This product is ENERGY STAR qualified only when installed on a photocell controlled circuit." (Note: This option is designed for use in instances where multiple fixtures may "see" each other and thereby cause lamp cycling. This is only intended for fixtures used in multi-tenant housing such as apartments, condos, etc.) EPA reserves the right to take action and terminate the ENERGY STAR partnership with any manufacturer found to be in violation of this specification requirement.

Again, this EPA update has been provided to maintain the dialogue and the flow of ideas with fixture partners on future direction of the ENERGY STAR RLF program. EPA encourages partner participation during this process and welcomes ideas and input on the specific research topics outlined above. As always, feel free to contact me with any comments or questions at (202) 343-9397, or shiller.david@epa.gov. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



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ENERGY STAR for Residential Light Fixtures
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