

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

October 27, 2010

Dear Battery Charging Systems Partners, Battery Charger Stakeholders, and Other Interested Parties:

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced that it would revise its Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> specification for Battery Charging Systems (BCS). Through this specification development process, EPA is both assessing new opportunities for increased product efficiency and the potential to expand the scope of product categories in the residential and commercial marketplace addressed by this specification..

This letter serves as both an update on the specification revision process and provides a timeline for next steps, and relays gaps in current data that EPA seeks to fill in order to propose appropriate efficiency requirements.

While EPA had originally hoped to make significant progress on this specification revision in 2010, resources were realigned to support high-priority efforts related to third-party certification requirements for all ENERGY STAR products. With much of the ground-work established for third-party certification processes and programmatic changes in place, EPA is committed to revising the battery charging systems specification over the next several months, as outlined below.

#### **Progress on Specification Development Goals**

In an announcement on March 9, 2010, EPA outlined four broad goals for the revised specification. These goals are summarized below, along with approaches to meeting each of those goals that EPA developed in the intervening months. These were influenced by input from stakeholders as well as the progress of other battery charger efficiency efforts.

- **Expand the scope of products covered:** Based on the initial interest of stakeholders, EPA intends to expand the scope of the battery charger specification to include large battery chargers for industrial as well as golf car applications. EPA has yet to engage with stakeholders representing smaller battery chargers, but believes the energy savings opportunity in that portion of the market to be significant.
- **Address active/charge mode:** EPA intends to evaluate the performance of battery chargers in active mode.
- **Work closely with DOE on a coordinated Federal test procedure:** EPA is following the DOE battery charger test procedure rulemaking and intends to reference the test procedure for the testing of small battery chargers when it is finalized. EPA intends to reference Part 2 of the CEC test procedure for testing large (industrial) chargers.

- **Harmonize with interested international governments, where feasible:** EPA will engage with other interested governments once draft test procedures and specifications are released for comment, with the goal of promoting worldwide harmonization.

**Key Next Steps**

EPA is in the process of analyzing battery charger test data collected by other organizations to identify any data gaps and evaluate the energy savings potential of all types of battery chargers, including those embedded in products that fall within the scope of other ENERGY STAR categories. This analysis will inform the draft specification.

It is critical to EPA’s effort to expand the scope of this specification to analyze additional test data derived from the following test procedures:

- **Small (consumer) battery chargers:** Proposed DOE battery charger test procedure (Published in the *Federal Register* on April 2, 2010: 75 FR 16979–16985)
- **Golf car battery chargers:** Proposed DOE battery charger test procedure (Published in the *Federal Register* on April 2, 2010: 75 FR 16979–16985)
- **Large (industrial) battery chargers:** Part 2 of the “Energy Efficiency Battery Charger System Test Procedure,” Version 2.2 (Adopted by the California Energy Commission on December 3, 2008)

EPA is particularly interested in additional efficiency test results of golf car battery chargers.

**Timeline**

Based on the available data, EPA intends to publish draft specifications for battery chargers according to the following updated schedule.

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Tentative Dates</b>
Release specification revision update letter	October 2010
Release Draft 1 specification for stakeholder comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose levels for consumer and industrial battery chargers</li> </ul>	November 2010
Stakeholder conference call hosted by EPA	December 2010
Battery charger efficiency testing according to test methods outlined above <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary focus will be testing of golf car battery chargers</li> <li>• Additional data will also be considered</li> </ul>	November 2010 – February 2011
Finalize test method (in coordination with DOE)	January 2011
Issue additional Draft specifications for stakeholder comment and host conference calls, as needed	February – April 2011
Issue Final Draft specification for stakeholder comment	May 2011
Issue Final Version 2.0 BCS specification	June 2011
Version 2.0 BCS specification takes effect	June 2011 (golf car and industrial chargers) March 2012 (consumer chargers)

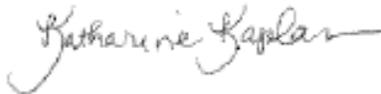
Specification and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site. To track EPA's progress with the development of this specification, please visit the Product Development Web site at: [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) (click on "Revisions to Existing Specifications" and then "Battery Charging Systems").

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA and stakeholders is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification revision process for BCS. If you know of others who may be interested in participating, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to [batterychargers@energystar.gov](mailto:batterychargers@energystar.gov).

Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, at [kaplan.katharine@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:kaplan.katharine@epamail.epa.gov) or 202-343-9120, or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at [mmalinowski@icfi.com](mailto:mmalinowski@icfi.com) or 202-862-2693.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
ENERGY STAR for Battery Charging Systems