

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 30, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Set-top Box Manufacturer, Service Provider, or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is happy to share with you the attached Final Draft Version 3.0 and 4.0 ENERGY STAR Set-top Box (STB) Eligibility Requirements and Test Method. EPA would like to acknowledge the many ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested substantial time and effort over the past several months to contribute detailed feedback and updated product performance data to further inform the specification development process.

Following the release of the Draft 2 specification in September, 2010, EPA hosted a conference call and received substantial written comments from stakeholders, much of which has been addressed in the comment response document included with this memo. Several important changes have been incorporated in this Final Draft as a result of this feedback, including:

- Additional basic requirements for Deep Sleep state have been added, including a power consumption limit based on a percentage reduction from measured On Mode power, and a requirement for a user-accessible button for manually initiating Deep Sleep.
- The Home Network Interface definition has been modified to be inclusive of all networking technologies with the exception of IEEE 802.3 wired Ethernet. This change provides flexibility for manufacturers to claim power allowances for high-bandwidth networking protocols.
- The definition for “Cable/Satellite DTA” has been changed to “Cable DTA”, since any Satellite device that does not communicate directly with head-end equipment would be classified as a Thin Client.
- Version 4.0 base functionality and additional functionality allowances have been updated in response to stakeholder input.
- Additional functionality rules for DTAs have been modified to allow DTAs with high definition capability to claim the HD adder.
- The qualification testing threshold for testing of multiple units has been reduced from 10% to 5%, to better align with manufacturer-supplied data about expected unit-to-unit variations in test results.
- The STB Test Method has been revised to clarify test requirements for thin client or remote devices in a multi-room configuration.

In addition, minor changes, as reflected in the attached document, have been made to the Service Provider Partner Commitments.

EPA anticipates finalizing this Version 3.0 specification by January 1, 2011, and has proposed an effective date of August 1, 2011, to align with manufacturer requests for a specification transition during the summer months. EPA has set a July 1, 2013 effective date for the Version 4.0 requirements.

EPA plans to host a conference call to discuss the attached documents on December 10, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM ET. If you are interested in participating, please email STBs@energystar.gov to RSVP and receive meeting information. Comments on the Final Draft Version 3.0 and 4.0 product specifications and test method should be submitted via email to STBs@energystar.gov, and will be accepted until December 20, 2010.

To track EPA's progress in the STB specification revision process, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs. Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, EPA, at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov or Stephen Pantano, ICF International, at spantano@icfi.com.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

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

Katharine Kaplan
US Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR for Set-top Boxes