



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 30, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Furnace Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 1 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Furnace Specification. As noted in the memorandum announcing this revision process, dated June 9, 2010, market share of qualified models has grown to 43% under the current Version 2.0 specification. To ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to distinguish the top performers in terms of energy efficiency, providing significant energy and cost savings to the consumer, EPA is proposing revisions to the ENERGY STAR specification in the following areas:

- **New Regional AFUE Approach:** AFUE levels are proposed based on three regions, which are defined by Heating Degree Days. The U.S. regions (i.e., North and South) are aligned with regions proposed by DOE in the latest standard rulemaking. Canada represents the third region. A regional approach allows a modest increase in AFUE in climates where the cost effectiveness of high-efficiency equipment is attractive for consumers.
- **New Metrics Introduced for Evaluating Performance:** EPA is introducing Annual Electrical Energy Consumption Rating (AEER) requirements to differentiate furnaces with high efficiency blower fans, and Air Leakage (Q_{leak}) requirements to differentiate furnaces with tight cabinets. These requirements offer additional energy savings.

More details regarding EPA's rationale for proposing these changes are included in note boxes throughout the draft specification document.

Enhanced Testing and Verification

In addition to the key revision areas outlined above, EPA is also introducing additional refinements in this Draft 1 document. These serve to further clarify qualification requirements and ensure a level playing field to support upcoming changes to the ENERGY STAR program, which will include the requirement of third-party certification for product qualification. Similar revisions are being made to all ENERGY STAR product specifications and will be shared with stakeholders for review and comment in early September.

In addition, EPA is working to modify the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments to address the enhanced testing and verification requirements that will apply to all ENERGY STAR product categories starting in early 2011. An updated Partner Commitments document specific to furnace partners will also be released in early September. For more information on enhanced testing and verification requirements, visit: www.energystar.gov/testingandverification.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments for EPA consideration to furnaces@energystar.gov by **September 30, 2010**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

EPA plans to host a stakeholder meeting on **September 21, 2010** to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address initial stakeholder comments and questions. Stakeholders are encouraged to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date. EPA will distribute further information about this meeting over the next two weeks.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Furnace specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Furnaces".

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov or 202-343-9375 or Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at smedepalli@icfi.com or 202-862-1268. Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you over the next few months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program