

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 17, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Room Air Conditioner Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Draft 2 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner (RAC) Product Specification. While performance levels remain unchanged from Draft 1, EPA has added new proposed requirements around intelligent product features and a proposal for designating RAC products, on an optional basis, that incorporate smart grid capabilities. In addition, EPA has modified the effective date to October 1, 2012 in response to stakeholder feedback and in recognition of the unique market cycle for this product.

Intelligent Product Features

EPA has long encouraged the implementation of “intelligent” energy-saving features for qualified products. Consistent with this approach, EPA is proposing a requirement that ENERGY STAR RACs operate, by default, in Energy Saver Mode. Energy Saver Mode can save energy by eliminating constant fan operation when the compressor cycles off. EPA is also proposing a requirement that qualified RACs provide visual notification to remind the consumer that the air filter should be checked, cleaned, or replaced, as needed. This reminder will help consumers keep their RAC running at highest efficiency for longer periods of time.

Smart Grid Capabilities

Consistent with the principle of enhanced consumer value and in response to the Smart Appliance petition EPA received from a joint coalition of industry and efficiency advocate stakeholders, EPA is evaluating how to best address and encourage smart grid functionality in ENERGY STAR specifications. In the near term, EPA is proposing to offer recognition of ENERGY STAR products that are Smart Grid Capable, through the information provided on our Qualified Product List (QPL). In order to take advantage of this opportunity, ENERGY STAR RAC models would need to meet certain criteria proposed in Draft 2.

As part of this stakeholder process, EPA will continue to engage with stakeholders on others ways to address and encourage smart grid functionality as part of the ENERGY STAR RAC specification, with an eye towards potentially adopting incentives as progress on this work allows. EPA encourages partners and other interested stakeholders to share information in support of this, including key features and functionality of interest, the consumer benefit that could be associated with such functionality, how savings should be measured and verified, and any price differential for a product with such functionality.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than June 16, 2011. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Meeting to Discuss Draft 2

EPA intends to host a webinar on June 2, 2011, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. (EST) to discuss the Draft 2 specification and address stakeholder questions. Stakeholders are requested to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date. To RSVP, please email

appliances@energystar.gov. Further details and a detailed agenda will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the meeting.

Revision Schedule

The updated, anticipated schedule for the ENERGY STAR RAC specification revision is as follows:

May 17, 2011	Draft 2 specification distributed
June 2, 2011	Draft 2 stakeholder webinar or meeting
June 16, 2011	Draft 2 comment period ends
July-September 2011	Further refinement on proposed smart grid criteria, stakeholder webinar, and comment period.
October/November 2011	Final Draft Specification distributed and comment period.
December 2011	Final Version 3.0 Specification published
October 2012	Version 3.0 specification effective

To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Room Air Conditioners".

Please direct any specific questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106 or Ryan Fogle, D&R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Amanda Stevens
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR Appliance Program