

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 16, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Room Air Conditioner Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Final Draft Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner (RAC) Specification. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past year to contribute feedback that has informed this product specification process. The effective date for this ENERGY STAR RAC specification is October 1, 2013.

The Final Draft Version 3.0 specification maintains the EER levels EPA proposed in previous drafts, resulting in strengthened efficiency criteria that require all ENERGY STAR RACs to be at least 15% more efficient than the federal standard. The Final Draft also incorporates new criteria encouraging intelligent energy-saving product features including Energy Saver Mode and Filter Reminder. Energy Saver Mode can save energy by eliminating constant fan operation when the compressor cycles off. The Filter Reminder requirement will provide visual notification to remind the consumer that the air filter should be checked, cleaned or replaced, as needed, helping consumers keep their RAC running at highest efficiency for a longer period of time.

The "connected" sections of Version 3.0 have been temporarily removed since work in this area for RACs is on-going. EPA recognizes that defining connectivity for home appliances is complex, as well as the importance of carefully considering the varied feedback from stakeholders. EPA plans to continue to work with stakeholders in the coming months on the connected RAC sections and will integrate the connected criteria into the Version 3.0 specification once they are final.

After connected is integrated into the RAC Version 3.0 specification, EPA plans to allow product's connected functionality to be certified based on inspection of the product and/or product documentation. However, manufacturers would not be able to use the proposed allowance to meet the minimum EER levels until an ENERGY STAR test method for verifying a RAC's demand response functionality is available. It is currently unclear whether a test method will be available by the time the Version 3.0 specification goes into effect; the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) efforts to develop the test method have been delayed due to the lack of RACs currently available with connected functionality. DOE encourages manufacturers to work with the Department on conducting investigative testing on prototypes as they may become available.

Comments on this proposal should be submitted via email to appliances@energystar.gov, and will be accepted until May 31, 2012.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR RAC and R/F specifications, 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, EPA, at stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106. Questions on test method development should be directed to Ashley Armstrong, DOE at

Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Thank you for taking the time to review this proposal and your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Stevens".

Amanda Stevens
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances