

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

June 22, 2012

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 final Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner (RAC) Product Specification. EPA would like to acknowledge the ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past year to ensure the successful completion of the Version 3.0 specification. This letter lays out the Agency's final decisions regarding these new requirements and outlines the schedule for qualifying products using Version 3.0

Effective Date & Energy-Efficiency Requirements

The Version 3.0 specification will take effect on October 1, 2013. These new requirements will require ENERGY STAR RACs to be at least 15% more efficient than the federal standard. The specification also includes new requirements encouraging intelligent energy-saving product features such as Energy Saver Mode and Filter Reminder.

Minor Edits & Clarifications

As part of this final specification, EPA has refined the language around the energy saver mode and filter reminder requirements based on stakeholder feedback. In particular, the installer accessible setting for disabling Energy Saver Mode and/or Filter Reminder in Through the Wall RACs has been clarified to make explicit that the setting could be accessed from either the product's controls or using a physical switch.

Connected Room Air Conditioners

As was noted in the Final Draft, the "connected" sections of Version 3.0 have been temporarily removed since work in this area is ongoing. EPA recognizes that defining connectivity for home appliances is complex, as well as the importance of carefully considering a range of 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 completed. After connected is integrated into the RAC Version 3.0 specification, EPA plans to list products having connected functionality based on Certification Body inspection of the product and/or product documentation. However, manufacturers would not be able to use the proposed allowance to meet the ENERGY STAR EER levels until an ENERGY STAR test method for verifying a RAC's demand response functionality is available.

Version 3.0 Deployment Timeline

EPA shares its Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next, with the objective of meeting consumer expectations that ENERGY STAR labeled products fully meet the latest requirements in effect upon their date of manufacture. With this in mind and consistent with its approach for other product categories, EPA has established the following timeline for RACs:

- Effective immediately, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 3.0 requirements.

- After May 1, 2013, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 2.1. Note, however, that existing certifications to Version 2.1 will remain valid for the purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until October 1, 2013.
- As of October 1, 2013 any product shipped with an ENERGY STAR label must meet Version 3.0 requirements. All certifications of products to the Version 2.1 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 3.0 to EPA.

EPA thanks stakeholders who provided feedback during this specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your ENERGY STAR RACs. 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 your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

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

Amanda Stevens
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances