

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

September 21, 2010

Dear ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Set-top Box Manufacturer, Service Provider, or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 2 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Set-top Box (STB) Eligibility Requirements and Test Method and Manufacturer / Service Provider Partner Commitment documents. 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 first draft Version 3.0 specification in early 2010, EPA has hosted an in-person stakeholder meeting, published a discussion document about Service Provider topics, and held a follow-up conference call to discuss ENERGY STAR STB efficiency targets for 2011 and 2013. EPA has also met with industry representatives in person and over the phone on several occasions to discuss key topics in greater detail.

Concurrent to these events, EPA has also been engaged in the revision of all existing product specifications in preparation for the planned December 30, 2010 implementation of ENERGY STAR Enhanced Testing and Verification, details of which can be found at [www.energystar.gov/testingandverification](http://www.energystar.gov/testingandverification). Several important changes have been made to the style and formatting of all ENERGY STAR consumer electronics Eligibility Requirements and Test Methods as a result of this program-wide effort. The Set-top Box Eligibility Requirements and Test Method distributed today reflect changes from both the most recent STB stakeholder discussions and the Enhanced Testing and Verification updates. Important modifications from Draft 1 to Draft 2 Version 3.0 include:

- Annual Typical Energy Consumption (TEC) allowances and requirements for selection of allowances have been updated based on further analysis of products currently on the market.
- A new definition for “Deep Sleep State” has been added to the document to support EPA’s goal of encouraging the implementation of low-power Sleep states in qualified STB products. Two unique benefits for Deep Sleep have been proposed: First, service providers who deploy products with Deep Sleep are rewarded with a 1.5X multiplier to count towards their annual purchase requirement. Second, manufacturers who include Deep Sleep functionality that is enabled by default are rewarded with a modified TEC equation for use in meeting product qualification criteria.
- Detailed equations and data tables have been added to the specification to clarify requirements and to incorporate TEC benefits for Deep Sleep state.

- An incentive for has been added for service providers who deploy Thin-client devices. EPA has proposed a 1.5X multiplier to count towards the annual purchase requirement for each purchased Thin-client STB.
- The Advanced Video Processing and Home Network Interface definitions have been modified to include an explicit list of protocols that meet the definition and intent of each function under the TEC approach.
- The “Additional Tuner” adder has been re-named “Multi-stream” to allow IP STBs that offer similar functionality to qualify for a TEC allowance.
- A Product Family definition has been proposed as a means of establishing which products can be qualified and labeled as ENERGY STAR under a single qualified product submission.
- A pro-rated first year purchase requirement has been added to provide greater flexibility for service providers who wish to join as new ENERGY STAR Partners.

In addition, the Partner Commitments for all product types have been updated to include new testing and verification requirements. The Manufacturer Partner Commitments that were first circulated last week reflect these changes. The Service Provider Partner Commitment document now includes a requirement that Service Providers only associate the ENERGY STAR with products certified by an EPA-recognized Certification Body. No other significant changes were made to this document.

Specification effective dates for Version 3.0 and Version 4 have yet to be finalized. EPA anticipates completing these specification revisions by December, 2010, and anticipates a Version 3.0 effective date no earlier than September, 2011.

As always, the exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Manufacturers are strongly encouraged to e-mail feedback on the Draft 2 Version 3.0 product specification and partner commitment documents to [STBs@energystar.gov](mailto:STBs@energystar.gov) by **October 22, 2010**.

EPA plans to host a Webinar meeting and conference call to discuss the attached documents on **October 4, 2010**, from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM ET. If you are interested in participating, please email [STBs@energystar.gov](mailto:STBs@energystar.gov) to RSVP and receive meeting information.

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

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



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