

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

April 4, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Commercial Ice Machine Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching efforts to revise the ENERGY STAR[®] Version 1.1 Commercial Ice Machine specification. The current efficiency levels required in the Version 1.1 Eligibility Criteria have been in place since January 1, 2008. Based on the ENERGY STAR Unit Shipment and Market Penetration Report Calendar Year 2009 Summary, 42% of air-cooled cube type ice machines shipped within the U.S. were labeled as ENERGY STAR, suggesting an opportunity to provide more effective market differentiation.

To ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to represent the top performers in terms of energy efficiency and water use, EPA will be revisiting the current ENERGY STAR requirements to determine new performance levels as well as make other program enhancements. This letter frames the expected scope of this revision and invites your participation in the specification development process.

Scope of the Specification Review

Revisit Potable Water Use and Energy Consumption Requirements

EPA will use the ENERGY STAR Qualified Product (QP) List and the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) Directory of Certified Product Performance to determine proposed new levels for air-cooled cube type machines.

Expand Eligible Products to Include Nugget and Flake Type Machines

EPA will be evaluating the potential for expanding the specification to include air-cooled continuous flake and nugget type ice machines. EPA is considering these product types for the following reasons:

- According to industry sources, flake and nugget type ice machines are the fastest growing products in the market representing approximately 15% of all ice machine sales.
- High efficiency designs are currently available, providing end users with greater choice in the marketplace based on their desired end product (e.g., nugget versus cube-type), and additional opportunities to save energy and water.
- According to AHRI, a certification program similar to that available to cube-type machines will be launched later this year for these product types.

Update Test Standard References

EPA will be reviewing the most current test standards available and will be updating references in the ENERGY STAR specification. EPA will be reviewing and considering the AHRI 810-2007, ASHRAE 29-2009, and U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed revisions to their ice machines appliance efficiency test standards.

Other Energy Efficiency Program Initiatives

In November, 2010, DOE issued a framework document for automatic commercial ice machines and will soon be releasing their notice for public rulemaking. For product categories covered both by DOE minimum efficiency standards and EPA's ENERGY STAR program, the scope and testing methodology of these two programs must be harmonized. EPA will work with DOE to ensure ENERGY STAR requirements are harmonized with the revised requirements. For more information on the DOE effort please visit the following link:

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/automatic_ice_making_equipment.html.

In addition, EPA will evaluate other program initiatives in developing product categories and performance levels for commercial ice machines, including the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) new tier levels released in February 2011.

EPA's Data Analysis

As mentioned above, EPA will base its analysis for cube-type ice machines on the ENERGY STAR QP list and AHRI Directory. Since flake and nugget machines are currently ineligible for ENERGY STAR qualification, and absent an AHRI directory for these product types, EPA encourages manufacturers to submit performance data on currently available models. EPA will consider all data shared using the attached template. A robust data set that represents a range of currently available models across all size categories will help EPA set appropriate requirements that reflect the overall market. EPA will include in its dataset all data submitted to icemachines@energystar.gov by **April 20th, 2011** so that it can incorporate it in the Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification analysis.

Next Steps

All industry stakeholders are encouraged to participate in this specification revision process. Initial comments regarding the scope of the revision can be sent to icemachines@energystar.gov.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Commercial Ice Machines specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs. All specification development materials to support the Draft 1 proposal will be posted to this website.

A Draft 1 Version 2.0 specification incorporating new proposed performance levels is scheduled to be released prior to the upcoming National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show, May 22-24, 2011. EPA intends to use the NRA Show as an opportunity to discuss the Draft 1 with manufacturers and other interested stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you on this revision of the ENERGY STAR Commercial Ice Machine specification. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone at (202) 343-9046 or email at kent.christopher@epa.gov. Stakeholders can also contact Erica Porras, ICF International, at (703) 225-2487 and eporras@icfi.com

Sincerely,



Christopher Kent, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR Product Specification Development