

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 21, 2010

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a revision to the current ENERGY STAR program requirements for room air conditioners. Attached to this letter is the Draft 1 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Room Air Conditioner products. EPA welcomes your comments on the proposed modifications included in this draft specification.

This specification revision has been initiated as a result of the rising share of ENERGY STAR qualified products in the room air conditioner market. To ensure that the ENERGY STAR program continues to distinguish top performing products in terms of energy efficiency, while providing significant cost savings to the consumer, EPA is proposing more stringent Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) requirements for the Version 3.0 specification. The proposed criteria levels represent an increase from 10% more efficient than the current federal standard to 15% more efficient than the current federal standard. More details regarding EPA's rationale for this proposal are included in note boxes throughout the document.

Third-Party Certification

On October 26, 2010, EPA posted a minor revision (Version 2.1) to the current ENERGY STAR program requirements for room air conditioners. The revision implemented program changes associated with new third-party certification requirements for ENERGY STAR qualified products to take effect on January 1, 2011. These documents can be found at: www.energystar.gov/testingandverification. The attached Draft 1 Version 3.0 specification also incorporates all of the Version 2.1 modifications to testing and qualification requirements.

All current manufacturer partners are required to recommit to the ENERGY STAR program and its third-party certification requirements as a result of these changes. If you have not already recommitted, it is critical that you do so before January 1, 2011 to avoid partner interruption. To recommit, please go to your My ENERGY STAR Account (MESA) at: www.energystar.gov/mesa.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than January 19, 2011. EPA also welcomes comments on specification topics not explicitly discussed in the text boxes. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Meeting to Discuss Draft 1

EPA intends to host a webinar on January 11, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon (EST) to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. Stakeholders are requested to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with this proposed date. EPA will distribute further information about this webinar over the next several weeks.

Revision Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification revision is as follows:

January 11, 2011	Stakeholder webinar on Draft 1 specification
January 19, 2011	Comment period closes on Draft 1 specification
February/March 2011	Draft 2 specification distributed, stakeholder webinar or meeting, and comment period.
March/April 2011	Final Draft specification distributed ¹ stakeholder webinar or meeting, and comment period.
May 2011	Final specification posted
February 2012	Final specification effective

¹ EPA may propose additional draft specifications before issuing a Final Draft.

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, EPA, at 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