

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



**OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION**

May 23, 2012

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Final Draft Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR[®] Audio/Video 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 Audio/Video specification is April 1, 2013.

The Version 3.0 requirements, once final, will replace the Version 2.0 Tier 3 requirements initially scheduled to go into effect March 30, 2012.

On September 9, 2011, EPA released the Draft 2 Version 3.0 Audio/Video specification and test procedure to stakeholders. EPA received many constructive comments on that draft and, as requested by stakeholders, held additional conversations and conference calls specific to amplifier efficiency, resulting in a memo distributed on November 8, 2011. The comments and feedback received on these two documents informed the development of the Final Draft documents.

Important modifications from Draft 2 to the Final Draft include:

- **Amplifier Classification:** EPA has added definitions for Consumer and Commercial Audio Amplifier Products and their defining characteristics to the specification. This differentiation will allow EPA to establish efficiency criteria that align with how these product classes are used both now and in future versions of the specification. In response to stakeholder feedback, EPA proposes that Commercial Amplifiers may ship with Auto Power Down disabled.
- **Networking Clarifications:** EPA has provided clarification on allowances for multiple networking and control protocols implemented in a single product. Additionally, allowances for Gigabit Ethernet and Wi-Fi protocols have been added to the specification.
- **Product Safety:** Since proposing compliance with safety requirements in Draft 2, EPA has learned through stakeholder feedback that many different safety standards may apply to A/V products and that referencing applicable local and national safety requirements does not provide enough guidance and clarity to manufacturers. Therefore, at this time, EPA is withdrawing the proposed safety requirements, with the understanding that products sold in the United States are adhering to applicable safety regulations.

- **Toxicity:** While energy efficiency remains the basis upon which top performers are selected, EPA addresses attributes related to other aspects of product performance in ENERGY STAR specifications as applicable to ensure that overall product performance is maintained relative to a non-qualifying product. By including additional attributes, the ENERGY STAR program seeks to avoid associating the label with models of poor quality or models with features that are not compatible with broadly held consumer or societal interests, thereby preserving the influence of the label in the market. In response to stakeholder concern that placement of toxicity requirements in the product eligibility criteria could hinder international harmonization, EPA is proposing that these criteria reside instead in the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments document, which is unique to the US market. As such, EPA has removed the Toxicity requirements from the eligibility criteria. Further, in response to feedback, EPA notes in the Partner Commitments document that it is the Agency's intention to harmonize with the EU RoHS Directive and that the toxicity requirements are not subject to third-party certification.

At this time, no substantive changes have been made to the Draft Test Method for ENERGY STAR Audio/Video products.

As always, the exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. **Stakeholders are requested to provide comments on the Final Draft specification by June 8, 2012. Please send comments via e-mail to audiovideo@energystar.gov.** All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Audio Video products specification and to review comments, please visit the Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs and click on "Audio/Video."

Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft specification. Please contact Verena Radulovic, EPA, at Radulovic.verena@epa.gov or (202) 343-9845 or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at mmalinowski@icfi.com or (202) 862-2693, with any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,



Verena Radulovic, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:

Final Draft Partner Commitments for ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products
Final Draft Version 3.0 Specification for ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products
Draft Test Method for ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products
Comment Response Document