



ENERGY STAR[®]

Climate Controls

Laboratory/Certification Body Webinar Round Robin for Ease of Use Test December 20, 2011

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Webinar Goals

- EPA Lab Recognition/ third party certification
 - Intent
 - Process
- Round Robin for Ease of Use Test
 - Intent
 - Specifics of timing, cost and administration
- Questions and answers

Entities Involved

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Manages ENERGY STAR program
- **Partners:** Seek product qualification
- **Laboratories (“Labs”):** Test products
- **Certification Bodies (“CBs”):** Provide third-party certification of test results
- **Accreditation Bodies (“ABs”):** Provide third-party assurance of Lab and CB competencies

Recognized Organizations Operate According to International Standards



**INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD**

**ISO/IEC
17011**

First edition
2004-09-01

Corrected version
2005-02-15

**Conformity assessment — General
requirements for accreditation bodies
accrediting conformity assessment
bodies**

**INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD**

**ISO/IEC
17025**

Second edition
2005-05-15

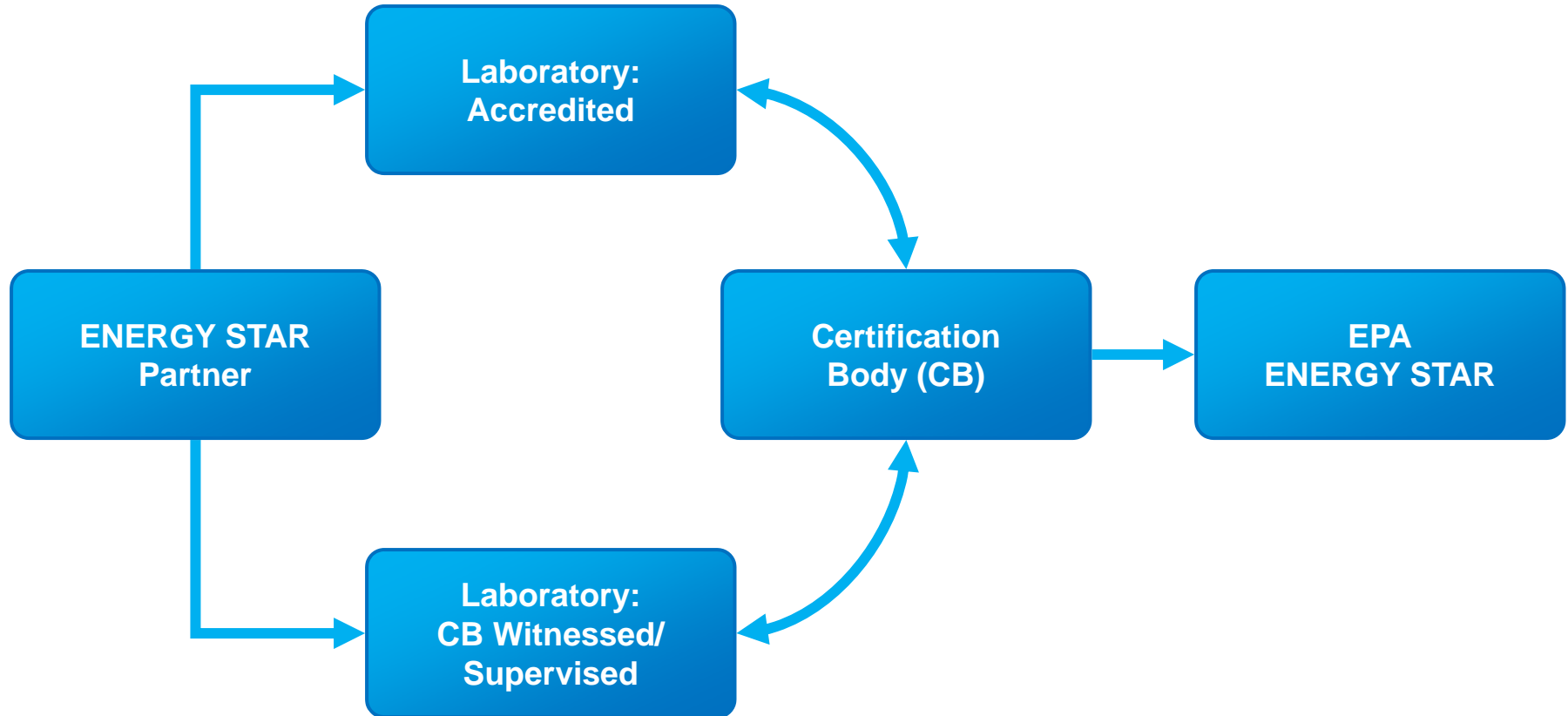
**General requirements for the competence
of testing and calibration laboratories**



GUIDE 65

**General requirements for
bodies operating product
certification systems**

Product Qualification Process



Usability Test Round Robin



- Intent
 - Determine reproducibility between labs
 - Collect data to inform level setting (not 1 to 1)
 - Ensure laboratory infrastructure is in place for qualification
- To trust the results, EPA needs...
 - Three models/lab, three labs/model
 - Independent user groups of 28 individuals, highly specific demographics, per test

How to fulfill these requirements



- Units should span ease of use range
 - Less usable unit, expect labs to fund
 - At least one manufacturer very interested in funding participation of their unit
 - The more units, the better the data
 - The more labs, the better the data
- If participation exceeds 3 labs and 3 units, assign subset of units to labs

Chicken and Egg: Cost and Participation



- Manufacturer interest limited by cost
 - DOE RFP responses provide some basis, but \$/user-device varied by factor of 2 to 3
 - More labs participating may mean more cost/manufacture
- Brainstorm ways to provide cost surety
 - Limit manufacturer cost/labs, labs cover difference
 - Manufacturers pay equally into pool; labs reimbursed equally from pool

Timing and planning

- January 2012: EPA releases Draft 3 requirements for Climate Controls, incorporating V1.0 Ease of Use Test
- January – February 2012: Round robin testing conducted
- March 2012: Draft Final Climate Controls Requirements, updated test method
- March/April 2012: Final

Questions and Answers



- How will participation in the round robin help labs?
 - Develop/demonstrate expertise with test method
 - Potential for interim recognition, if needed
 - Participating labs listed on Climate Controls specification development page
 - EPA will seek opportunities to highlight participating labs in the press

Questions and Answers



- How will participation in the round robin help manufacturers?
 - EPA will seek opportunities to highlight participating manufacturers in the press
 - Manufacturers gain valuable insight about how their units perform on the test
 - Results potentially useful for qualification
 - IF test does not change (e.g. tasks change)
 - IF one of participating labs gains recognition

Questions and Answers



- What will labs report to EPA?
 - For units A, B, C etc.
 - Task time to complete and success – by individuals, identified by demographic categories
- Human subject protocol review required?
 - EPA considering requiring review by private review board
 - Initial investigation shows this is not burdensome – please comment

Contact information



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