

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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

January 17, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Medical Imaging Equipment Partner or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the launch of the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for Medical Imaging Equipment. The purpose of this letter is to provide background on the ENERGY STAR program and context on the program's interest in medical imaging equipment. This letter also transmits a draft test method for stakeholder review and comment and invites interested parties to an initial stakeholder webinar planned for January 29, 2014.

#### Background

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary, public-private partnership. More than 2,000 manufacturers currently participate in the program, qualifying over 40,000 product models across more than 70 product categories. (A complete list of ENERGY STAR products can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)). With 85% of American households recognizing the ENERGY STAR label, it has become a powerful tool in the market, making it easy for consumers to identify and manufacturers to sell energy efficient products. When the opportunity arises, EPA expands the ENERGY STAR program to new product categories that will deliver significant benefits to consumers and the environment in the form of energy and dollar savings plus greenhouse gas reductions.

EPA's initial review indicates that there is significant savings potential associated with differentiating more efficient products in the medical imaging equipment category. Large hospitals in the United States account for less than 1 percent of all commercial buildings but consume 4.3 percent of the total delivered energy used in the commercial sector. As hospitals are continuously operating and consuming power, reducing facility energy consumption offers significant potential to reduce hospital energy bills.

Currently, little data exists on the energy consumption of medical imaging equipment. However, initial analysis shows that most medical imaging equipment products use significant energy, even when in standby mode (Ready to Scan) or off (Low-power). EPA believes considerable savings could be gained from avoiding unnecessary energy use in these modes, in particular.

The primary objectives of the ENERGY STAR Medical Imaging Equipment specification are:

- to provide uniform efficiency testing procedures, allowing for fair comparison of products
- to provide purchasers with the means to identify the most energy efficient medical imaging equipment solutions for their specific end-use application without compromise in performance or functionality

- to provide tools and information for designers and managers looking to improve the efficiency of medical imaging operations

### Test Procedure

As a starting point, EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have developed the attached Draft ENERGY STAR Test Procedure based on the European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical, and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR) test procedures for measuring energy consumption. This draft is being proposed for use in the initial data collection, as part of the ENERGY STAR specification development process, and may be revised prior to implementation as the final ENERGY STAR Test Method for determining product compliance with the future specification. EPA and DOE will work with interested stakeholders to evaluate and finalize the test method in parallel with the specification development process.

Key areas where EPA and DOE are seeking feedback include:

*Applicability:* This element is intended to identify specific product categories to be covered by ENERGY STAR. EPA's intention is for the Version 1.0 specification to cover as much of the market as can be reasonably addressed in a timely manner, while maximizing the opportunities for energy savings.

*Definitions:* This element is intended to explicitly define products that are covered by the specification and those that are not. Definitions are also provided for operational modes.

*Test Set up, Test Conduct, Test Procedure:* These elements are intended to provide the methodology to test eligible products in the Read-to-Scan and Low-power modes. Due to significant additional complexity, EPA and DOE do not plan on addressing active/scan mode in the Version 1.0 specification or test method.

### Launch Webinar

EPA invites stakeholders to participate in an initial web meeting to discuss this effort and the draft test method on January 29 at 11:30 AM, Eastern Standard Time. This discussion will be important as EPA begins development of a draft of the specification, and we hope you can participate. Stakeholders interested in participating in the webinar should RSVP to [medicalimaging@energystar.gov](mailto:medicalimaging@energystar.gov) no later than January 27. Call-in details will be provided to those who RSVP prior to the webinar.

### Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to EPA on the issues and questions identified in the draft test method as well as any other issues associated with the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for Medical Imaging Equipment no later than February 14, 2014. As EPA moves forward with developing these new requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail correspondence, and stakeholder meetings.

EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the specification once the test method is more fully developed for stakeholder review and comment (approximately Summer 2014). All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the specification development process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web page at [www.energystar.gov/newspecs](http://www.energystar.gov/newspecs). In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted to the product specific web page unless requested otherwise by the submitter.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification development process. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Products Program Strategic Vision and Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment). If you know of others who may be interested in participating in this process, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to [medicalimaging@energystar.gov](mailto:medicalimaging@energystar.gov) to be added to the stakeholder contact list.

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 and [kent.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kent.christopher@epa.gov) or John Clinger, ICF International, at (215) 967-9407 or [John.Clinger@icfi.com](mailto:John.Clinger@icfi.com) with any questions or comments. For questions relating to the test method, please contact Bryan Berringer at (202) 586-0371 or [Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov)

On behalf of EPA, I look forward to working with you to develop this new ENERGY STAR specification for Medical Imaging Equipment.

Sincerely,



Christopher Kent, Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR Medical Imaging Equipment