

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 24, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Water Heater Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the launch of a revision to the ENERGY STAR residential water heater specification.

New Federal standards, effective April 16, 2015, are in some cases equal to or more stringent than the current ENERGY STAR requirements for residential water heaters, necessitating a revision to the ENERGY STAR criteria. EPA's goal is to propose new energy performance criteria such that ENERGY STAR continues to distinguish the most energy efficient products that provide significant energy and cost savings to the consumer while continuing to meet consumer expectation for performance.

EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the revised specification next month with the goal of completing Version 3.0 so as to align its effective date with the 2015 Federal standard effective date. Over the next several months, EPA will solicit input from stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail updates and stakeholder meetings.

Pending Test Procedure Changes

EPA recognizes that there is an ongoing Department of Energy (DOE) test procedure rulemaking affecting all residential and certain commercial water heaters that have residential applications. The proposed DOE test procedure revision will establish a uniform test method and descriptor that will be used to establish ratings for these water heaters and will replace the current metrics for these types of products. However, due to the need to revise now to ensure ENERGY STAR's continued consumer value in certain segments of the water heater marketplace, the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR revision will be developed based on the current metrics (i.e. Energy Factor (EF) for residential water heaters and Thermal Efficiency (TE) for Light Duty EPACT covered water heaters) as measured by the Federal test methods in effect today.

Since DOE is required to develop a crosswalk after the uniform descriptor metric and test method is finalized, EPA plans to follow it, allowing Version 3.0 to remain in place for the near-term.

Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR web site. To track EPA's progress with the revision of this specification, please visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on Water Heaters.

As is the case with any specification revision process, input from stakeholders will ensure a strong and successful outcome. If you know of others who may be interested in participating, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to Waterheaters@energystar.gov and ask to be added to the list of interested parties.

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov and 202-343-9375 or Sarah Medepalli, ICF International, at sarah.medepalli@icfi.com and 202-677-5201. Please direct specific questions regarding the test method to Ashley Armstrong at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Ashley.armstrong@ee.doe.gov and 202-586-6590.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you over the next several months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program