

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 7, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Refrigerator and Freezer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Draft 1, Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR Refrigerator and Freezer Specification. EPA welcomes your comments on this draft specification; please submit comments no later than December 9, 2011.

In July 2011, EPA launched this revision to the refrigerator and freezer program requirements. The specification revision was initiated as a result of rising market share of qualified models and to address new needs and opportunities to more effectively designate top performing models for consumers. As part of this launch, EPA shared with stakeholders a Framework Document that outlined the Agency's reassessment of the current criteria and facilitated discussion on a range of possible modifications to the ENERGY STAR criteria.

The attached Version 5.0 Draft 1 specification contains EPA's proposed revisions for refrigerators and freezers. Key elements of this proposal include:

Energy Use Criteria:

- EPA is proposing a set of levels that reduces the differences in allowable energy-use among qualified model types, through more challenging levels for the largest and most energy-intensive refrigerator-freezer configurations. This approach balances the basic ENERGY STAR program objective – to help consumers identify models irrespective of configuration, that use the least amount of energy – with our interest in preserving consumer choice by not excluding certain configurations.
- In anticipation that more efficient products will be introduced as manufacturers transition their product lines to meet the new 2014 Federal standards, EPA is proposing strengthened levels for each of the three types of freezers covered in the program, with the end result being, for typical sized full-sized freezers, an 8 to 13% reduction in energy use relative to the current Version 4.1 requirements. For compact refrigerators and compact freezers, EPA is proposing several modifications that provide greater continuity with the requirements for full-size products.

“Connected” Functionality:

- As outlined in the Framework Document, EPA is proposing to help jump-start the market for refrigerators and freezers with functionality that delivers near term consumer value, while facilitating broader electric power system benefits. The approach bundles consumer-oriented enhancements, such as the ability to interface with an energy management system, with demand response (DR) functionality that consumers could opt to leverage in the future to save money on their energy bills, once the supporting infrastructure is built. The proposed consumer-oriented enhancements were developed in consultation with industry and other stakeholders following the release of the Framework document.
- An allowance towards the energy use criteria would be provided for products with the specified features. In addition, these products would be highlighted as “connected” on the ENERGY STAR

Qualified Product List, enabling consumers, rebate programs and other interested stakeholders to identify and advance these products into the market.

Future Version 6.0 (“Tier 2”)

- In light of new DOE standards and test procedures for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers that manufacturers will be required to comply with beginning September 15, 2014, EPA anticipates that the ENERGY STAR requirements will need to be updated at that time. EPA believes it may be helpful for Version 6.0 levels to be developed through the current specification process, to provide industry with greater certainty during a time they are undergoing a significant re-design in preparation for the new standards. EPA is requesting comment on this approach, recognizing that if this approach were taken, EPA would plan to seek data based on the revised test procedure to inform level setting.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 1

EPA intends to host a webinar on Tuesday, November 15th at 1:00 pm ET to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov by Friday, November 11th at 5:00 pm ET. Further details will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the webinar.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than December 9, 2011. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Revision Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the ENERGY STAR Refrigerator and Freezer specification revision is as follows:

November 7, 2011	Draft 1 specification distributed
November 15, 2011	Draft 1 stakeholder webinar
December 9, 2011	Draft 1 comment period ends
January 2012	Draft 2 Specification distributed, stakeholder webinar, and comment period
February 2012	Final Draft Specification distributed and comment period
March/April 2012	Final Version 3.0 Specification published
January 2013	Version 3.0 specification effective

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. To follow EPA’s progress in developing new criteria for refrigerators and freezers, please visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on “Residential Refrigerators and Freezers.”

Please direct any specific questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Stevens".

Amanda Stevens
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR Appliance Program