

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 23, 2012

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are pleased to share with you the attached Draft 2, Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR Refrigerator and Freezer Specification and the attached Draft 1, ENERGY STAR Test Method for Connected Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers, and Freezers.

EPA and DOE welcomes your comments on this draft specification and draft test method; please submit comments no later than March 23, 2012.

EPA appreciates the comments stakeholders provided on the Draft 1 specification document. While largely retaining the approach proposed, for Draft 2, EPA is proposing a number of changes in response to this feedback, including:

- An increased adder for Through the Door (TTD) ice service for bottom-mount refrigerator-freezers and side-by-side refrigerator-freezers. The proposed change accommodates a number of additional efficient refrigerator-freezer models with TTD.
- A new adder for "built-in" refrigerator-freezers that is expected to result in a number of products of this type, ranging in size from 10 to 24 cubic feet, to qualify as ENERGY STAR. The adder was developed to balance the program's objective of helping consumers identify models with superior energy performance with our interest in preserving consumer choice by not excluding products with certain features.
- Revisions to the proposed "Connected" criteria addressing home energy management (HEM) functionality, delay defrost capability, demand response functionality, and communication standards.

EPA also received a significant amount of feedback from stakeholders both supporting and expressing concerns over the proposed allowance for connected functionality. EPA views this adder proposed for Version 5.0 as a temporary step that will cost consumers little, if anything, as the proposed allowance for connected is offset by strengthened ENERGY STAR energy efficiency requirements plus additional near-term benefits, and can be further offset by longer-term societal and grid benefits that could be enabled by new demand response functionality. EPA has structured the criteria and allowance to ensure that all products earning the ENERGY STAR -- including models that use this temporary incentive in order to meet the energy criteria -- will continue to deliver significant, reliable and quantifiable energy savings for consumers, while preserving consumer choice of different configurations and features. Since this incentive is designed to help "jump start" the market, EPA does not envision the connected allowance will be a permanent part of this specification.

EPA has decided not to propose levels for a Version 6.0 through this stakeholder process. EPA will instead consider levels for a Version 6.0 specification through a subsequent specification development process, allowing additional time for consideration and discussion with stakeholders on efficiency opportunities beyond the 2014 standard levels. Future Version 6.0 levels will be based on product performance as tested to the new DOE test procedures (Appendices A and B) that manufacturers will be required to use to comply with the 2014 Federal standards. EPA is also exploring alternative, near-term approaches for encouraging transition to low GWP foam blowing agents outside of this ENERGY STAR Refrigerator-Freezer Version 5.0 specification.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 2

EPA intends to co-host a webinar with DOE on Thursday, March 8th, at 10:00 am ET to discuss the Draft 2 specification and Draft 1 test method, and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov by Friday, March 2nd. 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 March 23, 2012. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Revision Schedule

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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| February 23, 2012 | Draft 2 Version 5.0 specification & Draft 1 Connected Test Method published |
| March 8, 2012 | Stakeholder webinar to discuss Draft 2 Version 5.0 Specification and Draft 1 Test Method |
| March 23, 2012 | Comment period ends |
| April 2012 | Final Draft Specification distributed and comment period |
| April 2012 | Final Version 5.0 specification published |
| January 1, 2013 | Version 5.0 specification effective |

To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Refrigerator and Freezer specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Residential Refrigerators and Freezers".

Please direct any questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106 or Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Questions on specification development can also be addressed to Ryan Fogle, D&R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification and test method.

Sincerely,



Amanda Stevens, US EPA
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products