

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 23, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Room Air Conditioner Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Draft 3, Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner (RAC) Specification. EPA welcomes your comments on this draft specification; please submit comments no later than February 20, 2012.

While the performance levels remain unchanged from Draft 2, EPA has revised the proposed requirements around intelligent product features and the proposal for RACs with “connected” features. Key elements of the Draft 3 include:

Intelligent Product Features:

- EPA has long encouraged the implementation of “intelligent” energy-saving features for qualified products. In Draft 3, based on stakeholder feedback received, EPA is proposing revisions to the Energy Saver Mode and Filter Reminder requirements. In support of these changes, EPA is also proposing a new definition for an Electromechanical RAC that was developed in consultation with industry stakeholders.

“Connected” Functionality:

- The Draft 3 includes a general discussion of different options for structuring RAC Demand Response (DR) criteria. EPA is seeking more feedback from stakeholders to inform the development of these criteria.
- EPA is proposing to help jump-start the market for “Connected” 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 are built from the initial set of attributes developed in consultation with industry and other stakeholders for refrigerators and freezers.
- EPA is proposing an allowance towards the minimum energy efficiency ratio (EER) criteria for products with the specified “connected” features. Products meeting the “connected” criteria, as demonstrated using a future ENERGY STAR test method that will be developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), would be eligible to use this allowance. In the meantime, products that incorporate the “connected” features, as specified, will be highlighted on the ENERGY STAR Qualified Product List (QPL), enabling consumers, rebate programs, and other interested stakeholders to identify and advance these products into the market.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 3

EPA intends to host a webinar on Tuesday, January 31st, at 10:00 am ET to discuss the Draft 3 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov by Friday, January 27th 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 February 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 Room Air Conditioner specification is as follows:

January 23, 2012	Draft 3 specification distributed
January 31, 2012	Draft 3 stakeholder webinar
February 20, 2012	Draft 3 comment period ends
February/March 2012	Proposal for DR functionality; stakeholder comment period
April 2012	Final Draft Specification distributed and comment period
April 2012	Final Version 3.0 specification published
January 30, 2013	Version 3.0 specification effective

To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Room Air Conditioners".

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,



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