

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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

February 1, 2005

Dear ENERGY STAR® Roof Products Partner or Interested Party:

To ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to expand the market of energy-efficient products and accelerate the market penetration of energy-efficient technologies, each ENERGY STAR specification must be periodically re-evaluated. In the coming months, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be revisiting the current ENERGY STAR specification for roof products to assess its impact in the marketplace and to determine whether to revise this specification.

The primary purpose of this investigation is to determine the feasibility of including a requirement for emissivity of roof products within the ENERGY STAR specification. However, this is also the appropriate time to address any other issues within the context of the specification that require attention.

For example, EPA is also interested in the feasibility of allowing accelerated aging to be used to determine the maintenance of solar reflectance after three years. Several Partners have raised this issue since the ENERGY STAR specification for roof products was first launched in 1999. EPA is well aware that use of accelerated aging has the potential to stimulate the program by allowing for more and quicker product innovation while still ensuring high quality ENERGY STAR qualified products. Specifically, EPA is interested to learn if 1) there is still support for allowing the use of accelerated aging; 2) there is a test method that is applicable to all product types or equivalent test methods for each product type, so that advantage is not given to one product type over another; and 3) there is data or information to back up the integrity of the testing method(s). These last two points are vital. The lack of information and data on the test methods and their applicability to all product types is the reason why EPA has been unable to allow accelerated aging.

Once EPA has completed its preliminary research, a Draft 1 of Version 2.0 specification will be released to all stakeholders for review and comment. EPA will begin developing a Draft 1 document over the next few months and release it for stakeholder comment by July 2005. All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the revision process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment (click on "Revisions to Existing Product Specifications"). In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted, with permission from the commenter, to the same site.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. As an existing partner, your input is very valuable during this specification review process. If you have any comments, information to contribute, or issues that require attention within the context of the ENERGY STAR specification, please contact Brooke Taylor, ICF Consulting, at btaylor@icfconsulting.com.

If you have any questions or concerns during this process please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9124 or schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov. I look forward to working with you to revise the specification as necessary, so that it continues to reward superior energy efficiency and high quality in the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Rachel Schmeltz, EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Roof Products