

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 21, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Small Network Equipment (SNE) Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received questions from stakeholders regarding testing when certifying ENERGY STAR SNE products. EPA has provided two clarifications below in response to these inquiries, to help ensure that all SNE testing is conducted consistently across all products. All sections referenced below pertain to the ENERGY STAR Test Method for SNE – Final Test Method - Rev. Nov-2013 which can be found [here](#).

Clarification on High Data Rate Testing

Some partners have found that particular devices cannot accept the traffic levels specified in Section 7.1.A, as they send Ethernet Pause frames to keep traffic to a level they can accept without high packet loss. Even with Pause frames, packet loss is high. The intent of the high data rate test is to reveal the power levels that devices reach when stressed to their upper limit of capacity. For this purpose, the fact that there is packet loss is not important. As such, the test client must simply be capable of sending and receiving traffic at the specified rate, and configured to do so. If the UUT precludes the rate from being achieved, this is fully compliant with the test. In this case, follow the procedure as specified in Section 8.2 and report the high data rate actually achieved in transmission from the test client.

Clarification on Gigabit Ethernet Link

There have been questions about whether 500 Mb/s traffic as on a Gigabit Ethernet link is in each direction or split to be 250 Mb/s in each direction. The intent of the test method is that tests in this case be conducted with 500 Mb/s in each direction.

SNE products which are already in the process of being tested, or that have already obtained certification, are not required to retest if the assumptions used in testing differ from the clarifications above. EPA is requiring that all future testing of SNE products take these clarifications into account as part of the certification process.

Please direct any questions to Una Song, EPA, at Song.Una@epa.gov, or 202-343-9923; or John Clinger, ICF International, at John.Clinger@icfi.com, or 215-967-9407.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Una Song".

Una Song
EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment and Consumer Electronics