

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 15, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 2 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR[®] Computer specification. Comments on Draft 1 are due to EPA **no later than June 8, 2012**.

This draft incorporates input received from stakeholders in response to Draft 1 and subsequent discussions. Questions and important discussion topics are highlighted in note boxes located throughout the draft specification. The following list details key elements of Draft 2:

- Updated Definitions: Key changes to definitions and terminology include the following:
 - *Discrete Graphics Card (dGfx) and Graphics Processing Unit (GPU)* – Terminology is clarified in order to clearly delineate between graphics cards (which adders are based upon) and graphics processors (of which more than one might be present per card).
 - *Enhanced-performance Integrated Display* – Added as part of a discussion of panel technologies and impact on display adders.
- Scope:
 - *Ultra-thin Clients* – EPA proposes to exclude Ultra-thin Clients from the scope of the program.
 - *Slate Computing Devices* – Based on significant comment from Federal purchasers, EPA is again proposing inclusion of Slates in the ENERGY STAR Computer program. Balancing purchaser comments with those of manufacturers, EPA proposes focusing eligibility criteria on battery charging efficiency, citing the ENERGY STAR Battery Charging Specification.
- Power Supplies: The requirements for power supplies have not changed from the previous draft, but EPA has called attention to a detailed proposal received from a stakeholder. The proposal includes recommendations on a set of incentives for the inclusion of power supplies exceeding the base efficiency levels set in the specification.
- Power Management - EPA did not receive feedback regarding Network Power Management or steps needed to allow for power management innovation during implementation of Version 6.0. As such, power management criteria are unchanged.
- Desktop and Notebook Requirements:
 - *Enhanced-performance Integrated Displays* – A proposal for an adder for Enhanced Performance Displays has been developed based on the approach taken in the ENERGY STAR Version 6.0 Displays specification, under development now.
 - *TEC Mode Weightings* – While no revisions are presented to the TEC weightings, a discussion of the differences between Version 5 and Draft 1 Version 6 is included, along with a reiteration of the sources referenced in development of each.
 - *Base TEC Values* - For the Desktop and Notebook categories, a review of the data set and of calculated adders and allowances suggested the need to revise Base TEC Allowances. New values are presented in Tables 7 and 8 in the specification.

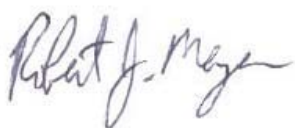
- *Integrated Displays* – The adder calculation for Integrated Displays was revised to (a) revise the values assigned for watts per megapixel given the lower brightness levels used to test Computers versus Displays and (b) streamline the adder into single formulae for Integrated Desktops and Notebooks.
 - *Alternative Stakeholder Proposal* – Prior to the release of Draft 1, ITI had proposed an alternative methodology for categorizing and measuring the energy efficiency of desktop and notebook computers. EPA continues to welcome comment and feedback on this proposal as a possible alternative to the established ENERGY STAR methodology.
- Workstations: The requirement to report Active State efficiency information is maintained from Draft 1. EPA is currently in the process of evaluating the proposed measurement approach for active mode data.
 - Basic Toxicity and Recyclability Requirements: EPA remains committed to including attributes related to other aspects of product performance in ENERGY STAR specifications to ensure that overall product performance is maintained relative to a non-qualifying product. By including additional attributes, the ENERGY STAR program seeks to avoid associating the label with models of poor quality or models with features that are not compatible with broadly held consumer or societal interests, thereby preserving the influence of the label in the market. In response to significant stakeholder concern that placement of toxicity and recyclability requirements in the product eligibility criteria would hinder international harmonization, EPA is proposing that these criteria reside instead in the ENERGY STAR Computer Partner Commitment document, which is unique to the US market. As such, EPA has removed section 3.9, Toxicity and Recyclability requirements from the computer eligibility criteria. Further, in response to feedback, EPA notes in the Partner Commitment document that it is the Agency's intention to harmonize with EU RoHS and that the toxicity and recyclability requirements are not subject to third-party certification.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the Draft 2 specification and send comments to computers@energystar.gov no later than Error! Reference source not found. June 8, 2012. For further information on specification development activities to date, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs and follow the link for "Computers."

EPA will hold an in-person meeting on **May 23rd, 2012**, in downtown Washington, DC. The meeting will focus on draft specification development for Version 6.0 of the ENERGY STAR Computer program and is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Eastern Time. Further details on the meeting, venue, and agenda will be forwarded shortly. To attend, please RSVP by emailing computers@energystar.gov with your contact information and "RSVP" in the subject line.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program. Stakeholder participation is critical to developing a meaningful specification and to the overall success of ENERGY STAR. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9923 or Meyers.Robert@epa.gov with any questions or comments. For questions relating to the test method, please contact Bryan Berringer at (202) 586-0371 or Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert Meyers
Product Manager, ENERGY STAR Computers