

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 29th, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 3 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR[®] Computer specification, as well as the attached Draft 3 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Computer Test Procedure developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Comments on Draft 3 are due **no later than January 9th, 2013**.

This draft incorporates input received from stakeholders in response to Draft 2 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 3:

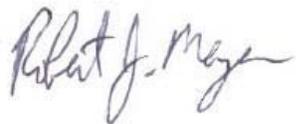
- Updated Definitions: Key changes to definitions and terminology include the following.
 - *Notebook Computer* – The slate computing device definition has been removed and will be included in a future Version 6.1 update. The Tablet computer definition has been amended to clarify that it requires an integral physical keyboard.
 - *Computer Components* – The GPU definition has been updated for clarity and a definition for integrated graphics has been added. The definitions for Display and Enhanced-performance Integrated Display have been updated to harmonize with that found in ENERGY STAR Displays Version 6.0 Specification.
 - *Networking and Additional Capabilities* – A definition for Switchable Graphics has been added.
- Scope: Point of Sale products have been added to the list of exclusions.
- Desktop and Notebook Categories: After discussions with stakeholders and an analysis of its dataset, EPA proposes the following changes:
 - Use the ITI category system for notebooks, as it is capable of making better distinctions between notebook products based on capabilities and end uses. EPA has added an additional category to the original ITI proposal to enable even more representative comparisons of notebooks with switchable graphics.
 - The ECMA system effectively categorizes desktops and EPA proposes to keep this system as proposed in Draft 2.
- Switchable Graphics: EPA proposes the following methods for handling switchable graphics systems:
 - Switchable graphics Notebooks will be tested with only their integrated graphics active and will be compared to Base TEC levels for integrated graphics. They will not receive a graphics adder.
 - Desktops with switchable graphics will be tested with only their integrated graphics active and will receive an adder equivalent to 50% of the G1 graphics allowance.
- Desktop and Notebook Requirements: Requirements for Desktop, Integrated Desktop, and Notebook Computer categories have been revised.

- Graphics adders and Base TEC levels have been adjusted in response to stakeholder comments from Draft 2 and subsequent discussions and analysis of 2011 and 2012 data.
- An Enhanced-performance Integrated Display allowance has been added and harmonized with the Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Displays specification.
- Power Supplies: The NRDC proposal for incentivizing more efficient power supplies has been added to the specification.
- Workstations: A requirement to share Active State efficiency information is proposed to inform Workstation purchasers and users. EPA does not propose inclusion of a TEC requirement using Active State in Version 6. The proposed benchmarks can be found in section 7.2 of the Test Method.
- Thin Clients: EPA proposes use of a TEC approach for Thin Clients, including a base TEC, a graphics allowance, a wake-on-LAN allowance, and an integrated display allowance.
- Number of Units Required for Testing: EPA has updated the language in this section to harmonize with other specifications, removing the requirements to test additional units near the limits of eligibility criteria.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the Draft 3 specification and send comments to computers@energystar.gov no later than January 9th, 2013. 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 and DOE will host a webinar on **December 10th, starting at 12pm ET** to discuss the key elements of the draft and answer stakeholder questions. To participate in this online meeting, please RSVP via email to computers@energystar.gov with your contact information and with "RSVP" in the subject line. Meeting details will be forwarded to participants shortly before the meeting.

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