

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



**OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION**

July 11, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Televisions Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Final Draft Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR TVs specification, which incorporates a Final Draft ENERGY STAR Test Method Addendum that addresses network connectivity. The attached document outlines the requirements that TV products would need to meet in order to earn the ENERGY STAR under Version 6.0, including an approach for products with Automatic Brightness Control (ABC). This Final Draft version continues to reference the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) proposed test procedure for television sets (77 FR 2830, January 19, 2012) as the final ENERGY STAR test method in Version 6.0.

EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past year to contribute feedback that has informed this product specification process. EPA plans to finalize this TVs Version 6.0 specification in August 2012, with an effective date of May 15, 2013.

The Final Draft Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR TVs specification includes the following modifications from Draft 2 and from the recent Proposal for Addressing ABC in the Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Televisions Specification:

- **Provisional Approach for ABC:** In May, EPA proposed a provisional approach to address televisions with ABC enabled by default until the DOE test procedure is finalized. This provisional approach is intended to both allow timely completion of the Version 6.0 specification to address market share concerns and to provide manufacturers with certainty regarding treatment of the ABC function in Version 6.0. As part of the provisional approach, EPA has proposed that products with ABC enabled by default receive a 10% On Mode power allowance. EPA appreciates stakeholder interest in ensuring that ABC functionality is enabled in order to receive the additional power allowance. Therefore, prior to receiving the adder, the product will need to demonstrate a difference in power consumption at different room illuminance levels, i.e., 10 lux, 50 lux and 100 lux.
- **Testing Products with Network Connectivity:** EPA has an interest in ensuring that products are tested and qualified as ENERGY STAR in the mode in which they will ultimately be viewed in the home. Recent market data shows that a large percentage of televisions are shipped with internet connectivity enabled. Therefore EPA proposes an additional test to gather data on the energy use associated with network connectivity, especially when a TV is in Standby-Active, Low Mode. DOE has developed a draft addendum to the test procedure for network connectivity in Standby-Active, Low Mode,

which is included in this Final Draft specification. DOE initially proposed this addendum and solicited stakeholder feedback in April 2012.

In addition, EPA received a request for clarification regarding the deployment timeline for Version 6.0 and transition plans for products certified to Version 5.3. EPA shares its Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next, such that ENERGY STAR labeled products meet the latest requirements in effect upon their date of manufacture and that partners have time to transition their collateral material. With this in mind and consistent with its approach for other product categories, EPA is sharing the following timeline for TVs:

- Effective upon completion of the Version 6.0 specification development process (expected August 15, 2012), manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 6.0 requirements.
- On December 29, 2012, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 5.3. Note, however, that existing certifications to Version 5.3 will remain valid for the purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until May 15, 2013.
- Any product manufactured as of May 15, 2013, must meet Version 6.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 5.3 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 6.0 to EPA.

Based on past discussion with TV partners, EPA believes that a specification change in the second quarter aligns with manufacturer requests for timing of new requirements. Further, EPA believes that allowing for qualification to Version 6.0 as soon as it is complete will enable savings on certification costs for new 2013 models.

Any comments on the Final Draft specification and Final Draft addendum to the test procedure should be submitted no later than July 25, 2012. Please send comments via e-mail to televisions@energystar.gov. All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website, unless the submitter specifically requests otherwise.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR TV products specification and to review stakeholder comments and other supporting documents, please visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs and click on "Televisions."

Stakeholders with questions or concerns about the specification can contact me directly at Radulovic.Verena@epa.gov. Stakeholders with concerns about the test method should contact Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov.

Best Regards,



Verena Radulovic, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:
Draft Partner Commitments
Final Draft Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR TV Specification