

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 8, 2007

Dear ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Computer Stakeholder:

The purpose of this letter is to inform stakeholders of important modifications to the Tier 2 effective date presented in the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Computer Specifications.

### **Tier 2 Effective Date**

As referenced in the Version 4.0 specification, EPA intends to pursue a "Tier 2 Energy Efficiency Performance Assessment," which would allow for evaluation of the efficiency of computers in all modes of operation. EPA is monitoring the efforts of two groups that are completing efforts related to the goals for Tier 2:

- *Ecma International*: developing a standard that describes how to measure the energy efficient performance of a desktop and notebook computer and report results in a standard format;
- *BAPCo*: working with Ecma to produce software systems that implement an evaluation scheme compliant with the Ecma standard, and that could be used as the basis for the energy portion of the Tier 2 Specification.

Working groups from both parties in charge of development have made significant progress over the last year but need additional time to complete their work. To support their continued progress and ensure that their approach meets the goals of Tier 2, EPA is modifying the Tier 2 effective date – **the new Tier 2 effective date will be July 1, 2009.**

The additional time will be used to ensure the completion of a meaningful Energy Efficiency Performance Assessment and EPA's compilation of a dataset based on this assessment once it is complete. Language for provisional Tier 2 Idle State requirements will remain in the specification under this new timeframe.

### **Tier 2 Dates in the Specification**

For stakeholder reference, on the next page is a list of revisions to Tier 2 effective date references in the ENERGY STAR Version 4.0 Specification. All other sections of the 4.0 Specification remain unchanged.

- Page 11-12, section 3). Energy Efficiency and Power Management Criteria

**B) Tier 2 Requirements - Effective July 1, 2009**

**(1a) Tier 2 Energy Efficiency Performance Metric.** All computers will be required to meet the following minimum performance per unit energy metric:

Energy Efficiency Performance Software and Associated Levels: **TBD**  
- OR -

**(1b) Provisional Tier 2 Idle State Requirements.** If an energy efficiency performance metric and associated performance levels are not ready to go into effect **by July 1, 2009**, a provisional Tier 2 specification will automatically go into effect and will remain in effect until such a benchmark is established. This provisional Tier 2 will include revised Idle state levels for all computer types (those included in Tier 1 as well as others as appropriate [e.g., thin clients]) with the intention of capturing the top 25% performers in energy efficiency.

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- Page 14, section 5). Effective Date

2. Qualifying Products Under Tier 2 of the Version 4.0 Specification: The second phase of this specification, Tier 2, will commence on **July 1, 2009**. All products, including models originally qualified under Tier 1, with a **date of manufacture** on or after **July 1, 2009**, must meet the Tier 2 requirements in order to qualify for ENERGY STAR.

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As always, thank you for your continued participation in ENERGY STAR. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or [kaplan.katharine@epa.gov](mailto:kaplan.katharine@epa.gov).

Best regards,



Katharine Kaplan, EPA Product Manager  
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment