For the Lab Accreditation Discussion as part of the ENERGY STAR Draft 2 Display V5.0 specification Stakeholder Meeting December 2, 2008

Here is a one page discussion document for the December 2 ENERGY STAR Draft 2 Display V5.0 specification Stakeholder Meeting. EPA is looking for stakeholder input in revising and clarifying this section of the test method documentation.

Currently in the Draft 2 Display V5.0 spec (line 371) :
Partners are required to perform tests and self-certify those product models that meet the ENERGY STAR guidelines. In order to conduct testing in support of qualification for ENERGY STAR, the display must be tested in a laboratory that is accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory, in good standing, to a mutual recognition arrangement of a laboratory accreditation cooperation (i.e. ILAC, APLAC, etc.) that verifies, by evaluation and peer assessment, that its signatory members are in full compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 and that their accredited laboratories comply with ISO/IEC 17025. Laboratories must be specifically qualified to carry out tests to determine whether displays meet key product criteria for displays as outlined in this document.

The issues identified by stakeholders during the draft 2 process include:

- Lack of substantive impact of third party testing
- Increased costs and longer development times
- Concern about applicability of this accreditation system to each economy

Purpose of this requirement

- Preserve self-certification - Increased criticism of self-certification and pressure to ensure accuracy of test information
- Ensure quality of testing data – Put requirements in place that ensure this quality and demonstrate this quality to others
- Address data quality issue across all ENERGY STAR products
    - Quality of test data for ENERGY STAR products is not an issue specific to displays, but is of current importance and relevance
    - Program integrity is important to the ENERGY STAR brand. Testing through accredited labs and quality certification programs lends more credibility to the ENERGY STAR self-certification process.

Proposal – During the stakeholder meeting, we would like the opportunity to discuss with stakeholders ways to address a data quality requirement. Ideally there will be no conflict of interest that could impact the personnel testing the products but this is often addressed through third-party testing requirements.

- Short-term: Proposed language change for the lab accreditation requirement

  Partners are required to perform tests and self-certify those product models that meet the ENERGY STAR guidelines. In order to conduct testing, in support of qualification for ENERGY STAR, the display must be tested in a facility that has quality control procedures for monitoring the validity of tests and calibrations. ENERGY STAR recommends conducting these tests in a facility that follows the general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories as described in the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025.

- Longer-term: Continue to explore the feasibility of requiring accreditations for laboratories that conduct testing to ensure the quality of test results. Finish development of verification testing requirements for computers and discuss how these requirements will be transferred to other IT and electronics products.