

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 14, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Stakeholder or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 1 Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR[®] Computer specification. Comments on Draft 1 are due to EPA **no later than March 13, 2012**.

This draft incorporates input received from stakeholders in response to proposed revisions to the ENERGY STAR Computer Test Method and as generated by the ENERGY STAR Computer Discussion Document. Questions and important discussion topics are highlighted in note boxes located throughout the draft specification. The following list details key elements of Draft 1:

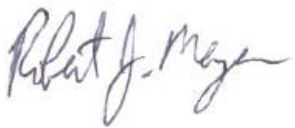
- Updated Definitions: Key changes to definitions and terminology include the following:
 - *Computer* - Revised to account for ultra-thin and thin clients (which lack a CPU), to remove legacy input references (digitizer and game controllers), and add touchpad as an input option.
 - *Notebook Computer* – To better clarify the scope of the Notebook Computer category, descriptions of Slate Computing Devices and Tablets are included as part of the Notebook Computer definition along with Mobile Thin Clients.
 - *Thin Client* – Descriptions for Integrated Thin Client and Ultra-thin Client appear under the Thin Client heading.
 - *Idle State* - Definitions for Short Idle and Long Idle are included, each based on definitions from the *Ecma-383* standard.
- Scope: The overall program scope is consistent with Version 5 with two exceptions: clarifications are added for tablet and slate computers; and the topics of Integrated Thin Clients and Ultra-thin Clients remain to be determined.
- Desktop and Notebook Requirements: Requirements for Desktop, Integrated Desktop, and Notebook Computer categories are revised to account for the following factors. The dataset used to calculate levels combined ENERGY STAR Version 5 qualification data with stakeholder submittals during the dataset development process.
 - *Product Categories* – Within the Desktop and Notebook product types, the category structure harmonizes with proposals developed as part of the *ECMA-383* standard development process (the registration process guiding their development is captured in a second standard, *Ecma-389*). With this Draft 1, EPA has analyzed the dataset using these categories and proposed corresponding levels.
 - *TEC Metric* – The formula used to calculate TEC now incorporates a Short Idle term. Short Idle will allow for a more accurate TEC evaluation for products with integrated displays. The relative weight of each mode is harmonized with references in supplemental materials to the *Ecma-383* standards process.
 - *Graphics* – The category system for Discrete Graphics adders are harmonized with the structure proposed under the *Ecma-383/389* effort.

- *Integrated Displays* – For Integrated displays present in both Integrated Desktops and Notebooks, an adder was created based on levels present in the ENERGY STAR displays program. This approach supports use of efficient display technology, allows for direct comparison between Integrated Desktops and Desktops, and offers an even comparison between Notebook computers with different sized displays.
- Workstations: A requirement to report 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 6.0.
- Small-scale Servers: A single base Idle power level is proposed for all Small Scale Servers in association with an adder for number of installed storage elements (hard drives or solid state drives).
- Thin Clients: EPA proposes use of Sleep Mode capability as a differentiation between categories for Version 6.0. EPA envisions that this approach will encourage adoption and development of low power modes in Thin Clients (test data showed that less than 40% of units in the dataset are capable of Sleep) and provide a more stringent Idle power target for former Category B systems without Sleep Mode. Off mode is proposed at 0.5 watts in recognition of proposed EU regulation at this level effective early 2013.
- Basic Toxicity and Recyclability Requirements: While EPA will continue to use the product's energy efficiency as the main differentiator, the Agency believes that consumers look to ENERGY STAR label to deliver on value and features in addition to energy performance. By proposing basic toxicity and recyclability criteria, the ENERGY STAR program seeks to avoid associating the label with poor quality or otherwise undesirable product models, thereby preserving the influence of the label in the market. In response to stakeholder comments related to third party certification, EPA has clarified that these requirements are exempt from the ENERGY STAR third-party certification process. Further, also in response to stakeholder comment, EPA added language making clear that the non-energy requirements proposed here are not intended for international adoption.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the Draft 1 specification and send comments to computers@energystar.gov no later than March 13, 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 host a webinar on **March 1st, 2012** 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 "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.

Sincerely,



Robert Meyers
Product Manager, ENERGY STAR Computers