

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



OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

October 26, 2011

Dear Climate Control Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Residential Climate Controls discussion document. This discussion document outlines recent developments in EPA's thinking with respect to certain aspects of the Residential Climate Controls specification currently in development. The Agency anticipates that changes along the lines being considered have the potential to allow simpler, lower-cost Residential Climate Controls to qualify, while retaining key energy saving and usability criteria. Considered changes include the following:

- Incorporation of a pathway for the qualification of climate controls with remote interfaces that enable management of HVAC systems on Smartphones, PCs and other devices,
- Elimination of humidity measurement/display criteria, and
- Elimination of rate tier indication criteria.

EPA continues to work on the usability test method that will play a central role in this specification. The Agency anticipates releasing a version of the test method, in conjunction with Draft 3 Eligibility Requirements, in December 2011. Comments on the aspects of the specification discussed in the attached that are received by November 11, 2011 will inform the December draft. EPA will shortly issue another invitation for labs to participate in a round robin test, associated with the Draft 3 release.

**Comment Submittal**

Stakeholder input is an important part of this ENERGY STAR specification development process. EPA will host a conference call on November 2 to facilitate stakeholder discussion of the concepts raised in the attached. EPA also welcomes written comments via email to [ClimateControls@energystar.gov](mailto:ClimateControls@energystar.gov). Rather than a specific comment deadline, EPA notes that comments received after November 11 will be considered in conjunction with comments on the Draft 3 specification.

Written comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Residential Climate Controls specification development Web site unless the submitter requests otherwise. All specification development materials can be found on the ENERGY STAR Climate Controls Web site at [www.energystar.gov/newspeccs](http://www.energystar.gov/newspeccs).

EPA appreciates the feedback received thus far during the development of the ENERGY STAR Residential Climate Controls specification. We look forward to continuing our productive partnerships. If you have any questions regarding EPA's proposal, please feel free to contact me at [daken.abigail@epa.gov](mailto:daken.abigail@epa.gov) and (202) 343-9375, or Doug Frazee, ICF International, at [dfrazee@icfi.com](mailto:dfrazee@icfi.com) and (443) 333-9267.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Abigail Daken".

Abigail Daken  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Climate Protection Partnerships Division  
ENERGY STAR Program