

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

September 7, 2011

Dear Audio/Video Equipment Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 2 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Audio/Video specification. The Version 3.0 requirements, once final, will replace the Version 2.0 Tier 3 requirements initially scheduled to go into effect March 30, 2012. The goals of this revision are to (1) establish performance requirements noted as “TBD” during development of the Version 2.0 Tier 3 product specification, (2) assess existing product performance criteria and modify as needed to ensure that ENERGY STAR continues to represent the top performing products in the market, and (3) address changes in program scope necessary to maintain broad applicability of the AV specification to the market. EPA aims to finalize Version 3.0 in October 2011.

On June 24, 2011, EPA released the Draft 1 Version 3.0 Audio/Video specification and test procedure to stakeholders. EPA received many constructive comments and has used this feedback and additional data to inform the development of the Draft 2 documents.

Important modifications from Draft 1 to Draft 2 include:

- **Clarifications:** EPA has made further clarifications and minor revisions to the definition of auto power down (APD) and loss of signal (LOS). These revisions are based on feedback received from labs, manufacturers and other stakeholders.
- **Amplifier Efficiency Requirements for Medium and Large Amplifiers:** EPA is proposing to retain existing requirements for these products.
- **On Mode Power Adder for Optical Disc Drives with Audio Amplification:** EPA proposes an adjustment to the structure of the ENERGY STAR On Mode Power requirements for products with both optical disc drives and audio amplification, such as Home Theaters in a Box, to ensure a level playing field. EPA has added an Audio Amplification adder to the On Mode Power function adders (Table 3) to address the idle power of the audio amplification circuitry while the optical disc drive is being tested.
- **Delivering Consumer Value:** In the interest of offering features that consumers value, EPA would like to ensure that the ENERGY STAR label is associated only with those products that meet minimum expectations for safety, materials toxicity, recyclability and recycled content where existing standards can be referenced. For Version 3.0 EPA is proposing that ENERGY STAR qualified Audio/Video products be free of certain toxic materials, including lead and mercury. EPA will seek to include requirements on recycled content in products, design for recyclability in products and packaging in a future revision to the Audio/Video specification.

In addition, EPA has retained the same On Mode Power levels for products as outlined in Draft 1 and proposes to retain the use of a sine wave, instead of pink noise, for testing audio amplification.

As always, the exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. **Stakeholders are requested to provide comments on the Draft 2 specification by September 27, 2011. Please send comments via e-mail to Owen Sanford, ICF International, [osanford@icfi.com](mailto:osanford@icfi.com) or to [audiovideo@energystar.gov](mailto:audiovideo@energystar.gov).** All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site, unless the submitter specifically requests that his or her comments remain confidential.

**Audio/Video Webinar/Conference Call to Discuss Draft 2**

On September 19, 2011 from 3pm–4:30pm, Eastern Time, EPA will host a stakeholder webinar to present details on the revisions made in the Draft 2 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR specification, as well as address stakeholder questions and concerns regarding the proposed changes. If you wish to attend this meeting, please RSVP to [audiovideo@energystar.gov](mailto:audiovideo@energystar.gov) no later than September 15, 2011, with the subject line “RSVP – ES A/V September 19 Meeting.”

To track EPA’s progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Audio Video products specification and to review comments, please visit the Product Development Web site at [www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs](http://www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs) and click on “Audio/Video.”

Thank you for taking the time to review this Draft specification. Please contact Verena Radulovic, EPA, at [Radulovic.verena@epa.gov](mailto:Radulovic.verena@epa.gov) or (202) 343-9845 or Owen Sanford, ICF International, at [osanford@icfi.com](mailto:osanford@icfi.com) or (202) 862-1141, with any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,



Verena Radulovic, U.S. EPA  
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics

Enclosures:  
Draft 2 Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products Specification  
Draft Test Method ENERGY STAR Audio/Video Products  
Comment Response Document