

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 20, 2007

Dear Refrigerator and Freezer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party,

In February, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a memo announcing its interest in developing an ENERGY STAR specification for laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers. These product types are currently not eligible for ENERGY STAR qualification under the current solid door refrigerator and freezer specification, which focuses only on those models intended for use in food service applications. The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the specification development process and request feedback on the ASHRAE 72 test procedure, including evaluation through testing.

EPA has reviewed the current ASHRAE Standard 72 standard "*Method of Testing Commercial Refrigerators and Freezers*" and held discussions with several industry experts who agree that the test method is reasonable for testing the energy consumption of laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers. Please note that this ASHRAE Standard 72 replaces the previous ASHRAE Standard 117, which is referenced in the ENERGY STAR specification. The new standard merely combines two test methods – for open and closed door equipment – into one document. The method for measuring closed door equipment continues to reference the same conditions and requirements found in ASHRAE Standard 117.

All interested stakeholders are encouraged to review the requirements of ASHRAE Standard 72 and provide comments regarding its usefulness for purposes of testing and qualifying laboratory grade refrigerators and freezers for ENERGY STAR. To the extent feasible for your evaluation to include product testing, we encourage you to submit your test results using the attached Laboratory Grade Refrigerator and Freezer Data Collection Worksheet (Excel version provided).

In order to allow for an adequate comparison among data submitted, manufacturers who wish to measure the energy consumption of their equipment should use the following parameters when testing models:

<b>Product Type</b>	<b>Integrated Average Product Temperature*</b>
General Purpose Laboratory Refrigerators	4 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C
Blood Bank Refrigerators	4 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C
Pharmacy and Chromatography Refrigerators	4 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C
General Purpose Laboratory Freezers	-20 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C
Plasma Freezers	-30 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C
Enzyme Freezers	-20 degrees $\pm$ 2 degrees C

\* Note: temperature requirements apply to house built and conversion models, where applicable.

If your product does not fall into the product type categories provided above then please indicate the intended use of the equipment.

To allow sufficient time for testing, manufacturers will have until **January 18, 2008** to submit comments and data to EPA for consideration. Interested parties should send all information to Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at [rduff@icfi.com](mailto:rduff@icfi.com).

When determining whether to develop a new ENERGY STAR specification EPA considers the following:

- Product is fully commercialized and available to the public on a widespread basis.
- New technologies and/or product types are non-proprietary by design.
- Market size and representation – more than one manufacturer and several product offerings available.
- Significant potential energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions can be gained from including new product types or technologies. Water consumption is also a consideration when considering new technologies, where applicable.
- Product energy efficiency performance can be measured using an industry accepted, widely used test procedure.
- Energy bill savings justify any increased initial cost of the higher-efficiency product or new technology from the consumer's point-of-view.
- Differentiation exists among similar products in terms of efficiency and those that are less efficient.

Based on stakeholder comments and data received by January 18<sup>th</sup>, EPA will determine whether an ENERGY STAR specification is feasible for this product category and convey next steps to all interested parties.

Thank you for your support of ENERGY STAR and participation in this effort. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov) or (202) 343-9124.

Sincerely,



Rachel Schmeltz  
ENERGY STAR Product Manager