



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

January 5, 2022

Dear ENERGY STAR® CAC/HP Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sharing the final ENERGY STAR Central Air Conditioner and Heat Pump Version 6.1 specification. As amended, the specification supports more effective deployment of the ENERGY STAR label for central AC and heat pumps, in light of additional information stakeholders shared.

EPA received several comments on the Version 6.1 Draft and has adjusted the amendment in response. A summary of comments and responses is available in the comment response matrix. In particular:

- EPA is retaining the EER2 requirements as outlined in Version 6.0, preserving both the simplicity of the specification and the peak demand benefits that are important to stakeholders in warmer regions.
- Based on information about new, lower cost, variable speed split systems entering the market, EPA will not require units to meet the installation criteria for certification. Instead, the Agency will distinguish combinations that meet the criteria on the ENERGY STAR product finder, similar to the “connected” designation. EPA remains convinced that air conditioners and heat pumps that provide aid to installers and raters are needed in the market, but seeks to avoid disadvantaging new variable speed units at this critical time for the advancement of that technology. While we have retained the term “installation criteria” for the specification, we intend to work with stakeholders to identify a more appropriate term to identify the units that offer these features for consumers and installers.
- In addition, the installation criteria have been further clarified based on a series of very helpful detailed conversations with brand owners. In residential use, it is not expected that cooling will be needed with outdoor temperatures under 65°F (relevant to requirement a). Furthermore, defrost mode need not be tested in addition to other tests (relevant to requirement f). Lastly, EPA has updated language about the test mode (requirement d) to reflect that the maximum speed may not be the most appropriate for testing particularly in units with “boost” capability.

Products certified from this point forward should use Version 6.1.

All materials related to the Version 6.1 specification development process are available on [EPA's ENERGY STAR Version 6 CAC/HP product development page](#). Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, [Daken.Abigail@epa.gov](mailto:Daken.Abigail@epa.gov) or 202-343-9375 and Morganne Blaylock at ICF, [morganne.blaylock@icf.com](mailto:morganne.blaylock@icf.com) or 202-862-2952. Please direct

questions about test methods to Catherine Rivest at DOE, [Catherine.Rivest@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Catherine.Rivest@ee.doe.gov) or 202-586-7335.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

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

Abigail Daken  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program