

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 14, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Commercial Hot Food Holding Cabinet Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the launch of an ENERGY STAR commercial hot food holding cabinet (HFHC) specification revision effort. The existing Version 2.0 specification has been in effect since July 1, 2011.

In preparation for this revision, EPA conducted a review of qualified product availability and sales at the current ENERGY STAR performance levels. The Agency's analysis of products in the U.S. market, along with low ENERGY STAR market share, have led to the conclusion that it is not necessary to revise the Version 2.0 levels for dry-only cabinets at this time. However, EPA has identified some opportunities to clarify and potentially expand the scope of the specification. This letter outlines EPA's primary areas of interest for this revision and seeks stakeholder feedback and data that will help the Agency draft the revised specification.

Certification of Wet Cabinets

Revision of the ENERGY STAR specification for HFHCs was prompted, in part, by outstanding concerns that cabinets capable of operating in a more energy-intensive "wet" mode are not being tested in a manner representative of their intended use. The current Version 2.0 specification does not specify which mode HFHCs shall be tested in for ENERGY STAR certification if they are capable of operating in various modes (i.e., wet and dry). Rather, the specification guidance simply declares that the cabinet shall be tested in accordance to the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard F2140-11, *Test Method for the Performance of Hot Food Holding Cabinets*, which suggests that cabinets capable of operating in a "moist" or "wet" mode may be being evaluated only in "dry" mode testing instead of in both "dry" and "wet" operating modes. EPA is interested in reviewing performance data for cabinets operating in "wet" mode, as per ASTM F2140-11, so that separate criteria can be established in a revised Version 3.0 specification. Absent a solution for addressing "wet" cabinets, cabinets capable of operating in a "wet" mode will be removed from the product scope and will no longer be eligible for ENERGY STAR certification. Thus, EPA encourages stakeholders to support this effort to assemble "wet" mode HFHC performance data.

Additional Product Categories

EPA is also taking this opportunity to collect energy performance data and product information for the following types of hot food holding equipment for possible inclusion in this specification. EPA is interested in performance data as per the corresponding ASTM test methods, if applicable:

- Cook and Hold Equipment, F3051-14 *Standard Test Method for Performance of Cook-and-Hold Ovens*
- Drawer Warmers, F2142-01 (2013) *Standard Test Method for Performance of Drawer Warmers*
- Universal Holding Cabinets

Stakeholders are asked to submit performance data along with other feedback to commercialfoodservice@energystar.gov.

Please note that manufacturer-provided test data used by EPA to determine ENERGY STAR performance levels does **not** need to be third-party certified. However, as with all ENERGY STAR product categories, third-party certification is required for ENERGY STAR certification once a specification is finalized. For more information on third-party certification, please visit www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert

Next Steps

Over the next few months, EPA will be working with stakeholders, collecting performance data, conducting industry outreach, and learning more about the products, including new technologies. EPA requests that all data and other initial comments for this revision effort be shared by **January 30, 2015**

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification revision process. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 and kent.christopher@epa.gov or Adam Spitz, ICF International, at (202) 862-1226 and adam.spitz@icfi.com with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during this revision process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kent". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher Kent,
ENERGY STAR Product Manager
Commercial Hot Food Holding Cabinets