

Maria,

I am the Product Marketing Manager for Laars Heating Systems Company located in Rochester, NH. We are a manufacturer of both residential and commercial boilers and volume water heating products.

First, I'd like to say that we are in support of the Top Tier program and believe it will help consumers better identify standard, efficient and now high efficient products as well as drive innovation as organizations strive to reach the Top Tier status.

After sitting in on your last webcast, our suggestions for the boiler segment of this program include:

- 1) Rather than a top 5% listing of all boilers, we feel that those products with a 95% AFUE efficiency level and above should be considered Top Tier. This level is well above the current 85% AFUE level required to meet the standard energy star criteria. The 95% AFUE level is easy for the consumer to understand, allows the consumer to know they are getting an ultra efficient product while not limiting their choices of design and feature sets.
- 2) The yearly cycle for boilers and other home heating products starts in the fall as people begin to think about their home's status for the winter. We would like to see the yearly Top Tier boiler list come out in August so we will have time to review and promote appropriately through our sales channels before the fall.
- 3) Will there be two categories, one for boilers and one for combination boilers and water heaters? The combination models include both home heating and domestic hot water (sinks, showers, etc). This may help the consumer better select an appropriate solution for their home and domestic water heating needs.

I am still a little unclear how manufacturers will be able to promote the fact their products are Top Tier Energy Star if a new label will not be made. Can we list as such on our website and in promotional material? Will you release a standard format to be used along with the Energy Star logo?

I am looking forward to seeing the final version of this program.

Regards,

Chuck

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