

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 12, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR® Set-top Box Manufacturing Partner, Service Provider, EPA-recognized Accreditation Body, Certification Body, or Laboratory:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently been asked by a certification body (CB) whether Set-top Boxes (STBs) undergoing qualification in a multi-room configuration need to also be tested in a single-room/single-output configuration.

Per section 3.4.1 of the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for STBs, STBs with multi-room capability can be qualified:

- For use in either single-room or multi-room configurations if the Combined Typical Energy Consumption (TEC) of the product as tested in a single-room configuration meets the Maximum TEC Requirement without the multi-room allowance;
- For use in multi-room configurations if the Combined TEC of the product when tested in a multi-room configuration (without the need for a Thin Client) meets the Maximum TEC Requirement with the multi-room allowance plus one half of the Thin Client/Remote allowance; or
- For use in multi-room configurations if the Combined TEC of the product when tested in a multi-room configuration (with a Thin Client) meets the Maximum TEC Requirements with the multi-room allowance. The Thin Client would have to qualify separately.

As can be seen above, in two of the cases a STB can be qualified by only testing in a multi-room configuration. However, as pointed out by the CB, the test method currently requires that all STBs also be tested in a single-room configuration. Specifically:

- In **section 2, Applicability**, the test method indicates that the “The test procedures in Section 7 are intended to be performed in the sequence that is presented in this document, as applicable” and that “[t]est procedures in Section 7.1 and 7.6 [single-room testing] are applicable to all products”, and

- In **section 7.9, Multi-room and Client STB**, the test method indicates that multi-room testing be conducted “[a]t the completion of testing of a multi-room-capable UUT in a single-display configuration”

EPA thanks the CB for pointing out this discrepancy. To streamline the testing process, EPA will revise the above two sections of the test method to allow testing of STBs in a multi-room configuration only if that is the path to qualification chosen by a manufacturer. A revised test method will be posted to the ENERGY STAR website at www.energystar.gov/specifications shortly, with the following changes:

- **Section 2, Applicability:** The test procedures herein are applicable to all Set-top Box products under the ENERGY STAR program. The test procedures in Section 7 are intended to be performed in the sequence that is presented in this document, as applicable, **except for products with Multi-room capability, which can begin with Section 7.9.**
- **Section 7.9, Multi-room and Client STB:** **If a multi-room-capable UUT can qualify without a multi-room additional functionality allowance, the UUT shall only be tested, At the completion of testing of a multi-room-capable UUT** in a single-display configuration, per Sections 7.1 through 7.8. **Otherwise**, the UUT shall be tested in a multi-room configuration. A client STB, if required by the multi-room STB, shall also be tested in a multi-room configuration, as follows:

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA and stakeholders is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, at kaplan.katharine@epamail.epa.gov or 202-343-9120, or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at mmalinowski@icfi.com or 202-862-2693.

Sincerely,



Katharine Kaplan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR for Set-Top Boxes