



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE D - New and renewable sources of energy, demand management & sustainable development  
**Regulatory Policy & Promotion of New Energies and of Demand Management**

## **ENERGY STAR**

### **THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELLING PROGRAMME FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT**



## **WORKING PLAN**

**VERSION 15 NOVEMBER 2005**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Office information and communication technology equipment is responsible for a large share of electricity consumption in the tertiary and residential sectors within the European Union. This share is increasing due to the rapid penetration of information and communication technology (ICT) in all sectors of the society and the continuous increase in performance of the ICT equipment. Action to reduce energy consumption and increase efficiency of ICT is therefore justified.

As office equipment is traded world-wide, an Agreement<sup>1</sup> was signed December 2000 between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community intended to co-ordinate energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment in two of the major global markets for office products. The Agreement is intended to stimulate international trade of office equipment, by facilitating the procedures for economic operators to participate in the ENERGY STAR programme. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the European Commission manage the Agreement and it will remain in force until June 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 2001/469/EC concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community on the co-ordination of energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment, OJ L 172, 26.06.2001, p.1.

The ENERGY STAR labelling programme is a voluntary labelling programme that will be used to achieve three different goals, as follows:

- Its primary goal is to help private and public purchasers to identify energy efficient office equipment products that could save them money and help protect the environment by saving energy.
- The second goal is to raise awareness in users, equipment and component manufacturers, and re-sellers about energy use in office. Nowadays, the selection criteria for new equipment are mostly based on price and performances while completely ignoring the energy consumption of the equipment that is purchased and used. Moreover, current use of office equipment does not take the energy consumption into account and good practices such as ‘switching off the equipment after use’ or ‘enable power management’ are often neglected...
- The third and last goal is to act as a *de-facto* world-wide efficiency standard for office equipment. This is due to the very international nature of the ENERGY STAR, which is present in most of the OECD countries. Furthermore, as a consequence of the US federal procurement policy that requires office equipment to meet the ENERGY STAR requirements, all the manufacturers “must” *de facto* meet the ENERGY STAR requirements if they want to sell to the largest buyer in the world. This double nature of the ENERGY STAR will make it unique in the sense that any challenging level to be set will then result in a large number of equipment meeting that level. Therefore, the ENERGY STAR specifications should have a very dynamic nature in order to be able to follow the market transformation that is caused by the label itself, as well as the fast technological evolution.

In its early stages in the European Community, the ENERGY STAR label shall also constitute the main vehicle to promote energy efficiency in office equipment and to encourage the wide adoption of good practices like: to switch-off the equipment when not needed (during night-time and week-ends) and to enable the power management features.

The European Commission, having regard to the Regulation (EC) No. 2422/2001 establishes the present Working Plan taking into account the views of the European Community Energy Star Board (ECESB). This Working Plan contains the tasks to be performed in 2006 for the development of the ENERGY STAR programme assuming the renewal of the Agreement.

## **2. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE ENERGY STAR EC PROGRAMME**

The ENERGY STAR Programme shall aim at optimising the energy consumption of office equipment. To achieve this goal the ENERGY STAR requirements shall be of a dynamic nature, so that it follows both the market transformation consequences of the label and the fast technological evolution. It is therefore recommended that, when a new ENERGY STAR criterion is issued, this is set at a very challenging level, so that it is met by 20 to 25% of the equipment existing on the market at the date the eligibility criteria are set. This market-share target shall be only indicative and, in some cases, where some technological breakthrough emerges, which may be adopted by most of the equipment on the market at low extra-cost, the above indicative market-share could be reduced. Besides, the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community on the co-ordination of energy-efficient labelling programmes

for office equipment sets, in Article X, some rules to avoid undermining the ENERGY STAR Programme or conferring commercial advantages to specific companies holding patents.

In the past years, the ENERGY STAR specifications have been focusing on introducing a sleep mode requirement, i.e. a lower power consumption in which the “enabled” equipment will fall after a certain period of inactivity, and progressively reducing the sleep mode power requirement. This action, although still necessary, only addresses one part of the office equipment energy consumption. The active mode consumption is becoming increasingly important due to the more powerful equipment that has been brought into the market (e.g. Personal Computers), along with the possible increased importance of on-mode status in the overall power consumption as a result of the increased use of Internet and the enhanced communication needs. Finally, the energy waste shall be avoided and, consequently, strict requirements for the off-mode shall be introduced (this shall be in line with the international 1 W initiative).

### 3. REVISION OF THE ENERGY STAR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

#### 3.1 Computers

The process for revising the technical specification for computers is under way. During the meetings of the technical subgroup of the ECESB on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, EC experts and stakeholders have discussed the way forward for renewing the technical specifications for computers. EC experts have supported the EPA in setting up a framework document defining the scope of the revised technical specifications. The next step is to define energy consumption levels. Currently data is being collected and analysed, in particular regarding the definition of energy consumption levels in the “idle-on” mode. The schedule foreseen for completing the revision of the technical specification for computers is as follows:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Steps</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Elaboration of framework document for revised technical specifications for computers	Input from technical subgroup ECESB	COM/ ECESB	Done
Input for revised technical specifications for computers	Consultation of EC experts	COM/ ECESB	Ongoing
	Consultation of ECESB	COM/ ECESB	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 05
Finalization of technical specifications	draft revised technical specifications to be released in December for input of EC experts	COM/ ECESB	QI 06
	Consultation of ECESB on finalized revised technical	COM/ ECESB	QI or QII 06

	specifications		
Adopted revised technical specifications as part of renewed Agreement with the USA on the ENERGY STAR Programme		COM/ ECESB/ Council	QII 06
Entry into force of revised technical specifications			QI or QII 07

### 3.2 Imaging Equipment

The process for revising the technical specification for imaging equipment (copiers, printers, multifunction devices etc.) is under way. During the meetings of the technical subgroup of the ECESB on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005, EC experts and stakeholders have discussed the way forward for renewing the technical specifications for imaging equipment. The EC experts have assisted EPA in setting up the “operational mode” (OM) and “typical energy consumption” (TEC) test procedures which will be used for establishing the energy consumption of a particular device. The test conditions have been worked out. Currently data is being collected and analysed in order to define the criteria for energy consumption. The schedule foreseen for completing the revision is as follows:

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Elaboration of TEC and OM test procedures and test conditions of revised technical specifications for imaging equipment	Input from technical subgroup ECESB	COM/ ECESB	Done
Input for revised technical specifications for imaging equipment	Consultation of EC experts Consultation of ECESB	COM/ ECESB	Ongoing Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 05
Data collection and analysis for establishing energy consumption levels for revised technical specifications	Consultation of EC experts	COM/ ECESB	Ongoing
Finalization of technical specifications	draft revised technical specifications to be released in December for input of EC experts Consultation of ECESB on	COM/ ECESB COM/	QI 06 QI or QII

	finalized revised technical specifications	ECESB	06
Adopted revised technical specifications as part of renewed Agreement with the USA on the ENERGY STAR Programme		COM/ ECESB/ Council	QII 06
Entry into force of revised technical specifications			QI or QII 07

#### 4. POSSIBLE CONTINUATION OF THE EC ENERGY STAR PROGRAMME – RENEWAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE USA

The Commission, in consultation with the ECESB, is considering making a proposal for a renewal of the ENERGY STAR Agreement. The Commission will consult the ECESB during the meeting on 2 December 2005 on working documents for a new Agreement and the corresponding amended regulation. The working documents have been prepared taking into account the experiences gained during the implementation of the programme in the EC until 2005 operation. A résumé of the experiences and the consequences for a possible renewal of the Agreement are contained in the document “The EC ENERGY STAR programme 2001 – 2005”, addressing the evolution of energy efficiency of office equipment, the effectiveness of the programme and suggesting improvements for the possible continuation of the programme implementation.

The timeframe for negotiating a possible new Agreement is as follows:

Consultation of ECESB on possible new Agreement	Exploratory consultation of the Stakeholders and of the Energy Star Board (ECESB)	COM	Done (March and Dec 04)
	Consultation of ECESB on working documents for new Agreement based on exploratory consultations	COM/E CESB	Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 05
Exploratory consultations with US EPA on possible new Agreement		COM	On-going
mandate from Council for COM for negotiation of new Agreement with the USA		COM/ Council	QI 06
Negotiation with US EPA on draft new Agreement		COM	QI -QII 06

Renewed Agreement with USA		MS	June 06
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## 5. ENERGY STAR MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION TOOLS

### 5.1 Registration of programme participants and qualifying products

In its role of Management Entity, the Commission will continue to assess applications from companies to become ENERGY STAR Partner and will register qualifying products conforming to the eligibility criteria.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Assess Program Participants applications	Record and confirm participation	COM	On-going
Assess Product forms applications	Record, check and register qualifying products and update website	COM	On-going

### 5.2 The EC ENERGY STAR programme website

The European Commission will continue to maintain and further develop the EC ENERGY STAR dedicated web-site [www.eu-energystar.org](http://www.eu-energystar.org). The site facilitates access to relevant information tailored for the different actors, including e.g. programme participation guidelines for manufacturers, information about registered equipment available in the EU market (see below), information on new developments concerning the ENERGY STAR programme, advice on how to save energy, test-cases on profitable energy savings, technical information on specific behaviour and operation of power management in different operating systems.

Users may access the database of registered products and manufacturers via the website. The database is updated regularly. In addition to the EC registered products, products having been registered by EPA on sale on the EC market are included in the database as well. To this end, data concerning EPA-registered models is being transferred, checked and – if the models are on sale in the EC – published on the EC website. The database of the EC ENERGY STAR website and the pdf-list of registered companies and products are updated accordingly on a regular basis.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Update of the content of the EC ENERGY STAR website (e.g. latest developments etc.)		COM	On-going
Update of database and pdf-list of registered products		COM	On-going
Include models registered by EPA being on sale in the EC	Record (data transfer) and check data, in particular	COM	On-going

in the EC database	regards availability of models on EC market		
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