

ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Computers – Version 5.0 – Draft 1 – Comments from ECESB Technical Working Group – March 2008

We present in the following comments from the European Community Energy Star Board (ECESB) Technical Working Group. These are based on written comments from the individual members and on a Technical Working Group meeting held on 30 November 2007 at the European Commission DG JRC, Ispra.

Definitions

Line 195: According to the definition a computer is composed of, at a minimum, a central processing unit, because user input devices and display screens do not need to be included when shipped. The definition may need to be rephrased for more clarity.

Line 242: We agree that desktop-derived servers should be further assessed when no products have been registered so far. A more suitable approach could be to move them to the server specifications.

Line 284: It should be considered to move the game consoles from the computer specification to a separate specification partly because they are not office equipment and the US – EC agreement only concerns office equipment, partly because there are only a limited number of manufacturers that the specification concerns.

Line 322: Regarding docking stations and port replicators, it is recommended to measure and report the consumption in order to be able to inform the customers about the consumption implications. It is common in several member states to use docking stations and port replicators for notebooks.

Line 345: The off-mode definition should be in line with revised version of IEC 62301.

Line 356 and 360: The active mode includes the idle mode and there is thus no clear distinction of these two modes.

Power Supply Requirements

Line 429 and 443: It is supported to keep stringent requirements to internal and external power supplies.

Standby Requirement

Line 457: It is supported to include standby (off) levels that are harmonised with the EU ecodesign initiatives.

Energy Efficiency Performance Assessment – EEPA

Line 463: In general, more information on the EEPA is requested by the technical experts. This includes the use of the computer performance score, description of the workload and the appropriateness of using one annual energy consumption figure for evaluation. Doubts have been expressed on the impact of active mode compared to the idle mode for computers (not workstations) and thus the relevance of using active mode versus continuing to use idle mode.

Line 463: The assumptions behind the E_{active} and N_{active} are not known. Being a new method, it is preferred to have actual measurement data from the manufacturers in order to be able to assess and discuss the method.

Line 463: A concern is that the EEPA tool might result in a too high activity level compared to typical usages in order to measure the performance of the computer.

Line 463: The individual power consumption values for the various modes should be measured, reported and published on the Energy Star website. This will make the annual energy consumption more transparent and users with a different use pattern can make their own calculations.

Line 463: It should be assured that the time in unplugged, off, sleep, idle and active sums up to 8760 hours and that all parameters are in kWh.

Line 467 and 471: N_{active} is used in the formula while N_{workload} in the description. These should be the same.

Line 513: It should be assured that the software tool works stable on all computers that should be measured according to EEPA.

Thin Clients

Line 566: Some experts have commented that the server side consumption impact should be included. Furthermore, that there are various thin client designs on the market and a differentiation between these should be sought.

Power Management Requirements

Line 589: It should be assured that the IEEE 802.3az ("Energy Efficient Ethernet") is published in a final version or a version that is final regarding the technical contents.

Product Families

Line 689: An expert asked to reconsider the requirement of only including the most energy consuming product in the family, because some purchasers are looking for the most energy efficient product, which is not possible to find if all manufacturers follow this option.

Testing and Reporting

Line 849: Regarding test of integrated computers and notebooks with display, it is preferred that the computers are measured both with and without displays on.