



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE D - New Energies & Demand Management

**Regulatory Policy & Promotion of New Energies and of Demand Management**

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## **THE EUROPEAN ENERGY STAR PROGRAMME GUIDELINES**



## 1. Introduction

This document is intended to provide information about the European Community **ENERGY STAR Programme**, and to highlight the nature of the commitment a company participating in the ENERGY STAR Programme has to make and the benefits the participating company will receive. This document is not intended to be a contractual document. In the case a company intends to register with the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme, the company shall read the ENERGY STAR Programme **Registration Form** and its Attachments and to Register itself with the European Commission.

## 2. The ENERGY STAR Programme Objectives and Scope

Accelerating the penetration of energy efficient office equipment in public and private buildings will play a major role in achieving the Community's CO<sub>2</sub> reduction goal while at the same time contributing to reducing dependence on energy imports; energy efficient office equipment also offers business opportunities for the European Union industry.

The ENERGY STAR Programme has been introduced officially in the European Community through two legislative acts: the Council Decision 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 programs for office equipment<sup>1</sup>; and the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on a Community energy efficiency labelling programme for office equipment<sup>2</sup>.

The ENERGY STAR Programme is a voluntary programme for improving energy efficiency in office equipment. The primary purpose of the ENERGY STAR Programme is to promote the manufacturing and marketing of energy-efficient office equipment, thereby potentially reducing combustion-related pollution.

The European Community ENERGY STAR Programme is co-ordinated with the US ENERGY STAR Programme for office equipment, by sharing the same technical specifications and test methods for qualifying products. However while in the US the ENERGY STAR Programme covers a wide range of products<sup>3</sup>, in the European Community the ENERGY STAR Programme has been introduced **only for office equipment**.

In the European Community the Management Entity for the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme, is the European Commission (in the US the Energy Star programme is managed by the US EPA). The European Commission is assisted by

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision (2001/469/EC) of 14 May 2001, published in the O.J. L 172/1 of 26.6.2001

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 2422/2001 of 6 November 2001, published in the O.J. L 332/1 of 15.12.2001

<sup>3</sup> For more information consult the US EPA ENERGY STAR Programme website at <http://www.energystar.gov/>

National Representatives, nominated by each Member States (for a list of National representative contact the European Commission), which are carrying out some tasks related to the promotion and monitoring of the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme. The European Commission is also assisted by an advisory body the European Community Energy Star Board (ECESB), the role of the ECESB are described in the above mentioned Regulation.

## 2. Registration to become Partners

The ENERGY STAR programme is a voluntary programme open to office equipment manufacturers, assemblers, exporters, importers, retailers and other bodies who are ready to commit themselves to promote designated energy-efficient office equipment products that meet the specifications of the ENERGY STAR Programme and who choose to participate in the ENERGY STAR Programme by registering with the European Commission.

Joining the ENERGY STAR Programme proceeds through a **Registration Form** to the addressed to the European Commission<sup>4</sup>, whereby the company in question commits itself to fulfil the ENERGY STAR Programme requirements, as indicated in the Registration Form. The decision to authorise an applicant to become a programme participant (Partner) will be taken by the Commission, after verifying that the applicant has agreed to comply with the **Guidelines for Proper Use of the ENERGY STAR Name and International Logo** (attachment A to the Registration Form).

Please note that if a **company as already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US EPA** for the office equipment product covered by the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme, and therefore it is already a Partner in the US in the ENERGY STAR Programme, **it does not need to register again with the Commission** to use the ENERGY STAR label on office equipment product marketed throughout the European Community. The US ENERGY STAR Partner for office equipment, will be automatically consider as Partner in the European Community, where they have to fulfil the same requirements as stated in the relevant US MoU. Please note that a company, which is an ENERGY STAR Partner in the US for **a product not covered** by the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme, it needs to register with the European Commission before using the ENERGY STAR on office equipment products.

Once a Partner has received the confirmation by the Commission that is Registration application has been accepted, the Partner may use the **ENERGY STAR logo** to identify qualified products that have been tested in their own facilities or by an independent test laboratory and that meet the technical specifications as described in the ENERGY STAR **Product Specifications** (attachment B to the Registration Form). Each

<sup>4</sup> EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT, ENERGY STAR Office, B-1049 Brussels,  
tel: +32 2 295 35 05; fax:+32 2 296 42 54

Programme partner may self-certify product qualification. Partner have in any case to follow the Guidelines for Proper Use of the ENERGY STAR Name and International Logo in using the Energy Star Logo and name.

### **3. The Partners Commitment**

For each model labelled the Partner shall send to the European Commission the **Product Information Form** (Attachment C to the Registration Form), which shall include complete information on the features and options installed on tested configurations. Partners will only be listed in the European Community ENERGY STAR Programme website only when they have send the Product Information Form for at least one product. **Product testing and certification** will be done through **self-assessment**.

The Partner shall also provide to the European Commission, on an annual basis, an updated list of ENERGY STAR qualifying office equipment models. The Partner must provide annual updates in order to remain on the list of participating product manufacturers.

The Partner shall provide clear and consistent labelling of ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment. The ENERGY STAR label must be clearly displayed on the top/front of the product, on the product packaging, in product literature (i.e., user manuals, spec sheets, etc.), and on the manufacturer's Internet site where information about ENERGY STAR qualified models is displayed. The Partner shall provide to the European Commission, on an annual basis, unit shipment data or other market indicators to assist in determining the market penetration of ENERGY STAR. The Partner shall appoint a responsible company representative as liaison with the European Commission for the ENERGY STAR Program and to notify European Commission within one month of any change in liaison responsibility.

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### **4. Revision of the technical specifications**

As indicated in the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community on the co-ordination of energy-efficient labelling programs for office equipment the technical specifications shall encourage continuing improvement in efficiency, taking into account the most advanced technical practices on the market. Therefore the European Commission reserves the right to change the ENERGY STAR technical specifications should technological and/or market changes affect its usefulness to consumers, industry, or the environment. Partners are encourage to co-operate with the Commission to the revision process.

## **5. Resolution of conflicts and misuse of the logo**

Each Partner is encouraged to informally notify the Commission if any problems or issues arise under the ENERGY STAR Programme and to work together to provide maximum public confidence in the program.

The European Commission shall ensure that the ENERGY STAR logo is used solely in the manner specified in the Guidelines for Proper Use of the ENERGY STAR Name and International Logo.

The European Commission ensures that prompt and appropriate action is taken against a Partner, whenever it has knowledge that a Partner has used an infringing mark or has affixed the ENERGY STAR marks to a product that does not comply with the Specifications. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) informing the Partner in writing of its non-compliance with the terms of the ENERGY STAR Programme;
- (b) through consultations, developing a plan to reach compliance; and
- (c) if compliance cannot be reached, terminating the registration of the Partner, as appropriate.

National legislation may also be used by Member States authorities to protect the correct use of the logo.

## **6. Promotion Activities by the Commission**

The Commission will make an effort to encourage consumer acceptance of products introduced under the ENERGY STAR Programme and bearing the ENERGY STAR logo. The Commission will undertake actions to promote energy-efficient equipment, and to inform consumers about the ENERGY STAR Program and ENERGY STAR logo by writing articles and/or co-operating with the news media by sharing information, where appropriate. The list of ENERGY STAR Programme Partners, including a description of their specific contribution to the ENERGY STAR Programme will be published widely (brochure, Internet etc.).

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