



ENERGY STAR® Products Third-Party Certification

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Background and Purpose



- Through over 15 years of shared effort, EPA and partners have built something of real value – the ENERGY STAR brand
- Maintaining the value of this brand requires ensuring products labeled with the ENERGY STAR deliver on their promise to the consumer
- Recent developments: Increased scrutiny of voluntary programs
 - Inspector General Reports at EPA and DOE
 - Government Accountability Office ENERGY STAR Investigation

Comparing Self-Certification to Third-Party Certification



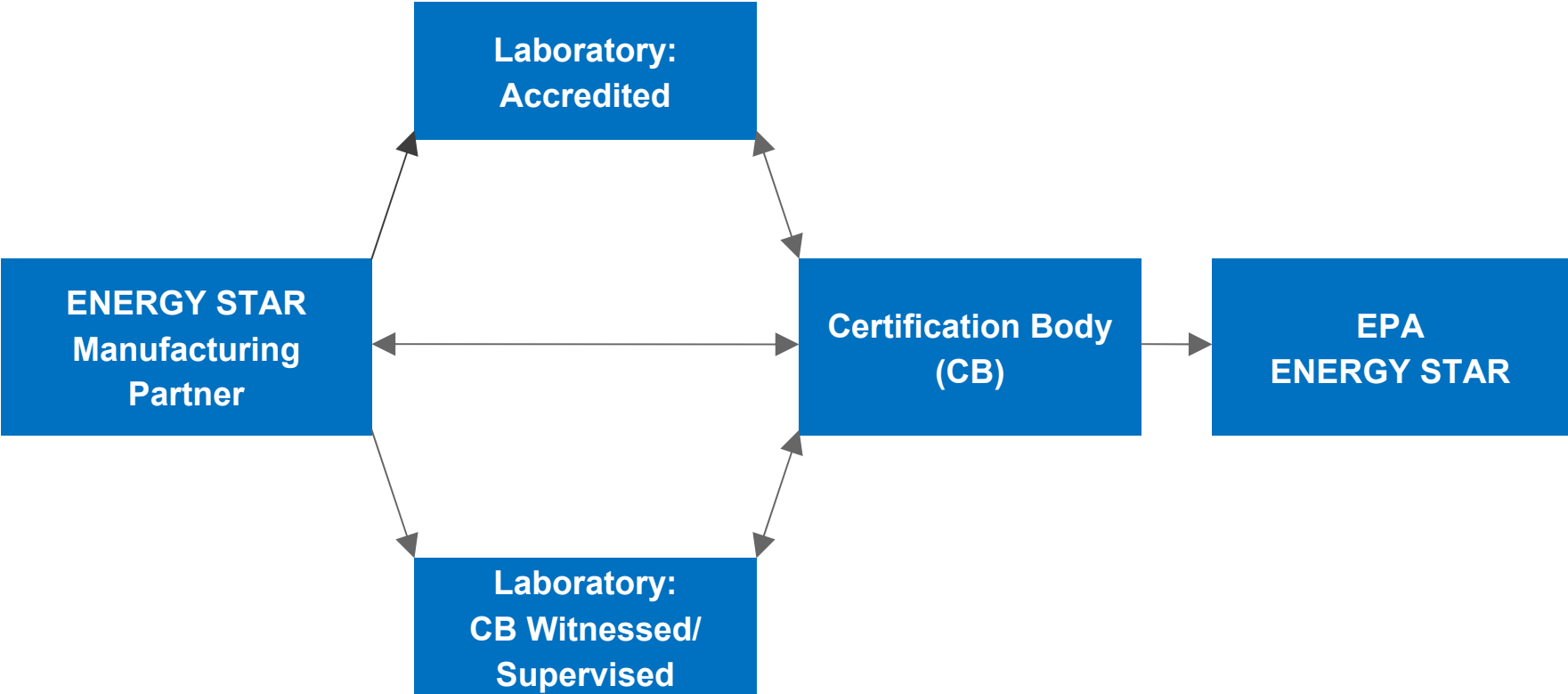
- Self-Certification (1992-2010)
 - Partners test products, confirm conformance to specification, and label with the ENERGY STAR
 - Partners submit test data to EPA to qualify their products
 - EPA reviews test data and adds products to lists of qualified products
 - EPA verifies energy performance of select models only
- Third-Party Certification (starting in 2011)
 - Partners will have products tested in EPA-recognized labs prior to qualification and labeling
 - CBs will certify that products meet program requirements based on a review of test data
 - CBs will upload certified data to EPA for creation of qualified product lists
 - CBs will conduct verification and challenge testing after qualification
 - CBs will evaluate retested products that have undergone significant post-qualification changes

New Approach to ENERGY STAR Qualification and Verification Testing



- Third-party certification of test data prior to qualification and labeling
 - EPA-recognized laboratories test the product and submit test results to a third-party certification body to certify the product meets ENERGY STAR specifications
- Verification testing after qualification
 - Verify that products continue to meet the ENERGY STAR requirements regardless of changes in the production process

Qualification Flowchart



Verification Testing



- CBs to administer testing
- 10% of ENERGY STAR qualified base models to be tested per year. Selection mostly random, EPA can provide input.
- EPA-recognized 3rd party laboratory must be used in most product categories; 1st or 2nd party laboratory may be used in some product categories provided that qualified personnel from an EPA-recognized CB witness testing;
- Unit procurement: Off-the-shelf where feasible; other channels possible as long as 3rd party personnel select unit(s)

Laboratory Requirements under New Third Party Certification Scheme



- CBs may accept data for certification only from labs that are recognized by EPA
 - Based on accreditation to ISO 17025, with a scope that includes all relevant test procedures in the ENERGY STAR specification for the product you wish to test; or
 - If lab participates in CB's Supervised or Witnessed Manufacturers Testing Lab Program
- First party labs are not required to participate in an SMTL or WMTL if they are recognized by EPA

Participation



- Accreditation Bodies: 24 (from 18 countries)
- Laboratories: 237*
- Certification Bodies: 17

*EPA continues to review applications from all organizations. The number of currently recognized laboratories does not completely reflect those that will participate via a supervised or witness testing program run by a recognized certification body.

Participation



- Partner Commitments were revised to reflect new system; all partners were required to recommit.
 - Most ENERGY STAR partners have recommitted, including industry leaders in each product category.
- To date, over 5,100 products have been qualified under the new procedures

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