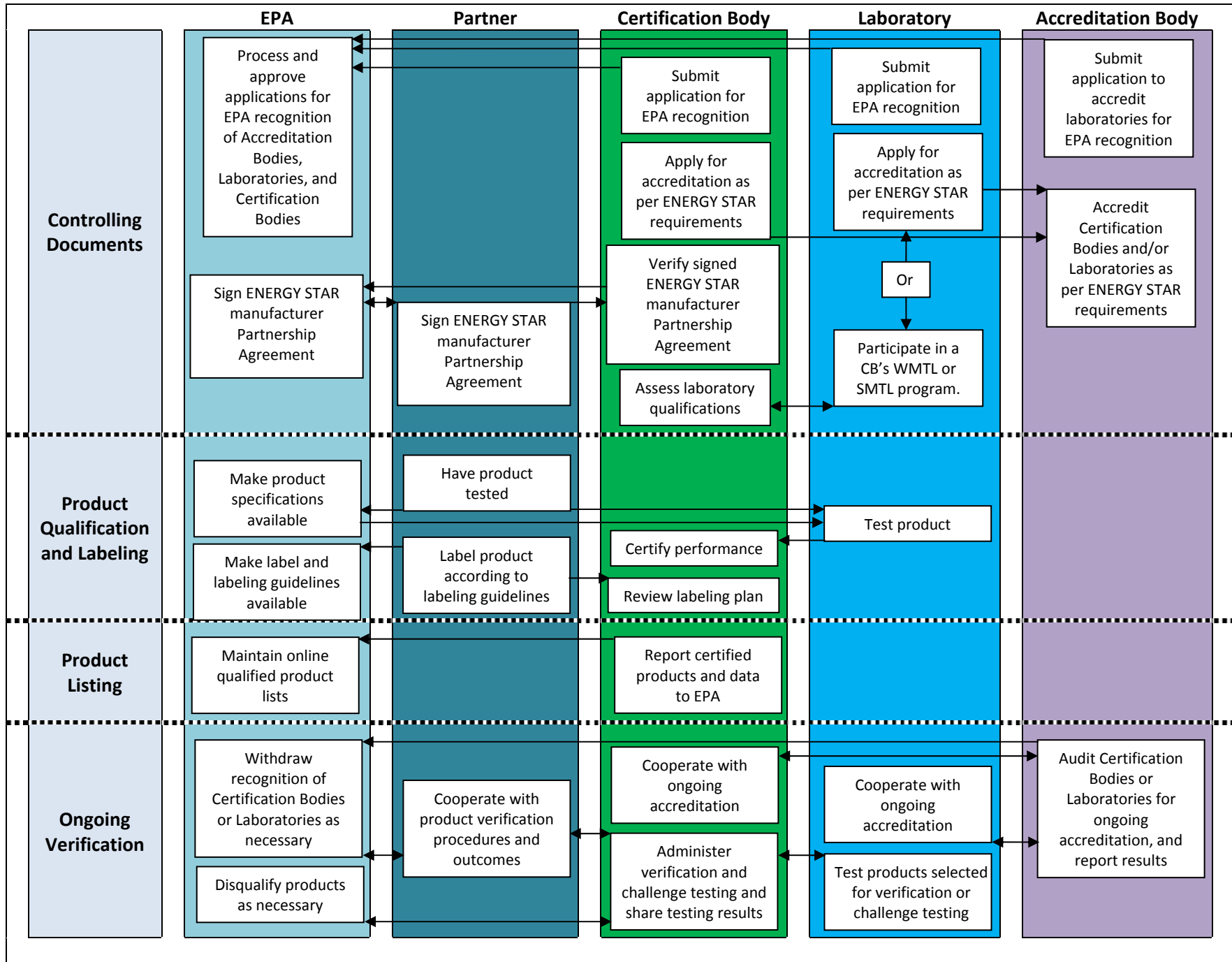


ENERGY STAR Process Flow Diagram



Explanation of the ENERGY STAR Process Flow Diagram

EPA - The United States Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR Program

EPA's responsibilities are to:

- Process and approve applications for EPA recognition of Accreditation Bodies (ABs), Laboratories, and Certification Bodies (CBs): ABs, labs, and CBs will seek EPA recognition by submitting an application that EPA will then review and ultimately approve or reject.
- Sign ENERGY STAR manufacturer Partnership Agreement (PA): As partners sign onto the ENERGY STAR program via a PA, EPA will countersign as it has historically done.
- Make product specifications available: EPA will continue to write new specifications or revise older ones, making them available to all interested parties, but especially those interested in the product qualification process.
- Make label and labeling guidelines available: EPA will continue to authorize use of the label, make the label and labeling requirements available to partners and other interested parties, and ensure that partners commit to abide by them when qualifying products. Labeling will also be confirmed during product verification.
- Maintain online qualified product (QP) lists: EPA will continue to maintain QP lists to inform all interested parties of which products are ENERGY STAR qualified. Products will be added to these lists upon confirmation of certification by an EPA-recognized CB.
- Withdraw recognition of Certification Bodies or Laboratories as necessary: As ABs continually audit EPA-recognized laboratories and CBs, EPA will withdraw its recognition of these bodies upon their loss of accreditation.
- Disqualify products as necessary: EPA will continue to disqualify products upon negative verification results.

Partner - The ENERGY STAR manufacturing partner who has signed a partnership agreement with EPA

The partner's responsibilities are to:

- Sign ENERGY STAR manufacturer Partnership Agreement: Organizations will continue to join the ENERGY STAR program by signing a PA.
- Have products tested: Partners will have their products tested at an EPA-recognized laboratory in order for them to be eligible for qualification.
- Label product according to labeling guidelines: Partners will continue to have to abide by EPA's labeling guidelines.
- Cooperate with product verification procedures and outcomes: Partners will be required to abide by the new verification procedures and outcomes, cooperating with CB efforts to select, source, and test products, and de-labeling any products with negative verification results.

Certification Body (CB) - Organization that meets the conditions and criteria for recognition of Certification Bodies for the ENERGY STAR program

The CB's responsibilities are to:

- Submit application for EPA recognition: To participate in the ENERGY STAR program, and thereby certify products pursuant to qualification, the CB will need to apply for and gain EPA recognition.
- Apply for accreditation as per ENERGY STAR requirements: Before applying for EPA recognition, the CB will need to gain accreditation to ISO/IEC Guide 65.
- Verify signed ENERGY STAR manufacturer Partnership Agreement: Before determining whether a product it is certifying meets ENERGY STAR requirements, the CB will need to verify the party seeking qualification is an ENERGY STAR partner.
- Assess laboratory qualifications: Before accepting test results from a given lab, the CB will need to verify that the lab is qualified to conduct the relevant tests. Note, the CB could also operate its own lab.
- Certify performance: Before EPA may consider a product qualified, a CB will have to certify its performance.
- Review labeling plan: The partner currently must agree to label its products according to EPA guidelines before EPA will consider the products qualified. EPA is considering requiring the CB to ensure that the partner has agreed to this labeling requirement when the partner submits its products for certification. However, EPA is not planning to authorize the CB to grant access to the ENERGY STAR mark.
- Report certified products and data to EPA: Once the CB has certified a product's performance and labeling plan, it will report this to EPA so EPA may review and qualify the product.
- Cooperate with ongoing accreditation: To maintain EPA recognition, the CB will have to cooperate with the ongoing accreditation requirements of the AB that accredited it.
- Administer verification and challenge testing, and share testing results: The CB will select and obtain qualified products to verify ongoing performance and labeling through verification testing, challenge testing, and product specification audits to ensure products continue to meet ENERGY STAR requirements after initial qualification.

Laboratory (lab) – Lab that meets the conditions and criteria for recognition of labs for the ENERGY STAR program. Under certain CB programs, the CB may recognize additional in-house labs participating in supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing programs.

The lab's responsibilities are to:

- Submit application for EPA recognition: To participate in the ENERGY STAR program, and thereby test products pursuant to qualification, the lab will apply for EPA recognition. Alternatively, it may participate in a CB's Witnessed Manufacturers' Testing Lab (WMTL) or Supervised Manufacturers' Testing Lab (SMTL) program.
- Apply for accreditation as per ENERGY STAR requirements: Before applying for EPA recognition, the lab will need to gain accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025.

Or

- Participate in a Certification Body's WMTL or SMTL program: Many CBs operate programs whereby they methodically build confidence in a given lab. EPA is proposing to permit CBs to accept data from such labs for the purpose of qualification.
- Test products: The lab will have to test products seeking qualification.
- Cooperate with ongoing accreditation: To maintain EPA recognition, the lab will have to cooperate with the ongoing accreditation requirements of the AB that accredited it.
- Test products selected for verification or challenge testing: As the CB schedules products for verification and challenge testing, tests will need to be conducted at EPA-recognized labs. In-house labs may only be used if the test is witnessed by the CB and in the case that the product was pulled off the manufacturing line for testing.

Accreditation Body (AB)

The AB's responsibilities are to:

- Submit application to accredit laboratories for EPA recognition: To accredit labs for their participation in the ENERGY STAR program, the AB will need to apply for and gain EPA recognition.
- Accredit Certification Bodies and/or laboratories as per ENERGY STAR requirements: For CBs or labs to participate in the ENERGY STAR program, they will need to be accredited. Labs will need to be accredited by an EPA-recognized AB that meets the conditions and criteria for recognition of ABs for the ENERGY STAR program. CBs will need to be accredited by a signatory to the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Recognition Agreement.
- Audit Certification Bodies or laboratories for ongoing accreditation, and report results: The AB will provide ongoing assessments of CBs and labs.