

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 16, 2010

Katherine Kaplan
ENERGY STAR Product Development
USEPA Headquarters
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. (6202J)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Kaplan:

On February 18, 2010, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) notified Samsung that DOE-initiated testing revealed that Samsung's French Door Refrigerator-Freezer model RF26VAB did not meet the applicable ENERGY STAR energy efficiency requirements. In a letter dated March 3, 2010, Samsung disputed the results of DOE's testing and provided additional information regarding the model at issue.

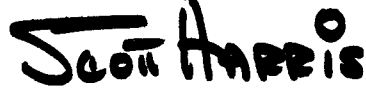
On March 8, 2010, representatives of Samsung and DOE met to discuss the test results and the relationship between the models tested. Samsung explained that it had enhanced its models over time without changing the external model numbers. Samsung also pointed to data showing that a different, enhanced model, RF267AB, met ENERGY STAR requirements when tested in accordance with DOE's test procedure. DOE explained that test data for a different, enhanced model could not refute the DOE off-the-shelf testing of model RF26VAB. DOE permitted Samsung to provide additional test results to demonstrate that the model at issue—RF26VAB—met the ENERGY STAR requirements.

On March 12, 2010, Samsung provided additional test results to DOE; however, the results fail to demonstrate that Refrigerator-Freezer model RF26VAB met the applicable ENERGY STAR energy efficiency requirements when tested pursuant to DOE's test procedure. The test results provided by Samsung were the result of internal testing. The reported results cannot be verified, and the test report does not explicitly indicate the test procedure followed. Although Samsung indicated in its accompanying email that the test was performed in accordance with DOE's test procedure, it is unclear to DOE how Samsung's internal testing could result in energy test results so much lower than DOE's testing. Although Samsung appears to challenge the results on the basis of its unfamiliarity with DOE's contracted test facility, DOE observed the set-up of the DOE testing and is confident that the testing was performed in accordance with DOE's test procedure. Samsung also argues that test lab results may vary by 10%; however, Samsung's results are 19-22% lower than DOE's results.



Samsung has failed to explain why the model failed DOE testing and has failed to provide documentation to demonstrate that the model met the applicable requirements. Therefore, DOE is referring this matter to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the brand manager for ENERGY STAR, for appropriate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Harris". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "S" and a cursive "H".

Scott Blake Harris
General Counsel

cc: Michael Moss
Samsung SEA QA Lab
18600 Broadwick St.
Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220
(via certified mail and email)