FenStar™ Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Updated

Due to the interest surrounding NFRC’s announcement regarding the FenStar Certification Program, and the documents that are available for public review (ending tomorrow, October 20, 2017 -- details and links for which may be found HERE), NFRC staff is making a concerted effort to keep ENERGY STAR® Partners aware of as much information as possible. To that end, a new webpage specifically for the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been created as a one-source for continuous information.

The questions and answers that have been added this week relate to the restructuring of the VPC, as follows:

VPAG Roles and Responsibilities

What is the VPAG?
VPAG is the Verification Policy Advisory Group. This policy group has been restructured from the Verification Policy Committee (VPC) to satisfy requirements from the certification scheme for ISO/IEC 17065.

How is the VPAG different from the VPC?
The VPC was the governing committee over the Independent Verification Program (IVP). The VPAG will not govern the FenStar Certification Program but will provide input and advice to staff on appeals and program documentation.

Why was the VPC changed to the VPAG?
The ISO/IEC 17065 standard has requirements for impartiality regarding the certification body activities. The EPA also has requirements for impartiality. The requirements mean participants in the certification program can’t be responsible for how the certification body operates.

What are the responsibilities of the VPAG?
The VPAG will provide input on the following: impartiality policy and issues, surveillance testing appeals, program administration appeals and complaints as requested by staff, program document revisions as requested by staff, and other issues as requested by staff. While the VPAG input will be considered, staff will have the final say on all decisions regarding certification activities and operations.
Why aren't other committees being changed?
The other standing committees have authorization over documents and programs that are part of the NFRC 700 PCP. That program is not being affected at all by the FenStar Certification Program.

Staff will be working to update the FAQ page as necessary and encourages all interested parties to check weekly for updates. Important information will be provided directly via email.

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