

EPA Climate Protection Award to the China National Institute of Standardization

The China National Institute of Standardization (CNIS) has been honored with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2003 Climate Protection Award. According to Jeffrey Holmstead, Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, these awards *"recognize some very influential partners in the campaign to protect the climate and ozone layer. Through their innovation and leadership, and the diversity of their approaches to environmental stewardship, they are truly making a difference."*

China is currently one of the world's largest producers and purchasers of energy-consuming appliances. By the mid-1990s, it had become clear that China's appliance efficiency standards program could not keep up with the rapidly growing residential market. In 1995, CNIS, the organization responsible for the development of China's minimum energy efficiency standards, embarked on a new program of international cooperation to institute a more rigorous program of standards-setting. Modeled after successful U.S. programs, China's new program was aimed at strengthening regulation of energy use in household appliances, lighting, and other major energy-consuming equipment based on the introduction of stringent research and analytical techniques.

Under the direction of former State Economic & Trade Commission of China and Standardization Administration of China, CNIS has since moved squarely into the forefront of regional efforts on standards development, which promises to increase regional and international harmonization, lower costs to manufacturers, and reduce trade barriers. The results of this work are significant. According to a recent study, China's standards and related efficiency labeling program will reduce CO₂ emissions by an annual rate of 11.3 million tones in 2010, compared to an expected 13.6 million tones reduction from the older U.S. appliance standards program.

At the same time, CNIS has turned its focus on China's increasingly sophisticated consumers consistent with changes in energy conservation policy under the Chinese government. CNIS has developed a new user-oriented energy information label in order to provide helpful, comparative information to the public on their purchases of major energy-consuming appliances and other equipment. In tandem with new efficiency standards, the label will reinforce the penetration of more efficient appliances and equipment into the booming Chinese market.

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The award was presented to CNIS at the Climate Change Awards dinner in Washington, DC on April 22, 2003. For more information, contact:

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