

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



**OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION**

February 7, 2005

Dear Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is interested in expanding ENERGY STAR[®] to include pre-rinse spray valves as a new product category. The purpose of this letter is to introduce you to ENERGY STAR and our process for setting program specifications, and solicit your feedback on the enclosed Draft specification for pre-rinse spray valves.

The ENERGY STAR program is a voluntary partnership between government, businesses, and consumers designed to encourage the manufacture, purchase, and use of efficient products. Energy efficiency -- delivering equal (or better) product performance for less energy -- helps protect the environment. The less energy that is used, the less energy we need to generate at power plants, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves the quality of our air. Commercial and household products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines. Manufacturers that design and qualify their products according to the ENERGY STAR specifications are able to use the label as a marketing tool to highlight these products for their customers. To date:

- over 1,400 manufacturers are partnering with ENERGY STAR
- more than 28,000 product models carry the ENERGY STAR mark across over 40 product categories
- over 55% of Americans recognize the ENERGY STAR mark
- American consumers have purchased more than 1 billion ENERGY STAR qualified products

Energy efficiency helps the economy, too, by saving consumers and businesses billions of dollars in energy costs. In 2003 alone, Americans -- with the help of ENERGY STAR -- saved \$8 billion dollars on their energy bills, saved enough energy to power 20 million homes and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 18 million cars off the road. For more information about ENERGY STAR, please visit our Web site at www.energystar.gov.

Pre-rinse spray valves are also of interest to EPA because efficient models reduce energy use by using water more efficiently. Efficient water use conserves existing supplies of a precious resource, reduces the burden on the nation's water and wastewater facilities as well as households and other consumers, and helps protect our environment.

Pre-rinse spray valves would be the latest addition to ENERGY STAR's suite of commercial foodservice specifications, including fryers, hot food holding cabinets, steam cookers, and solid door refrigerators and freezers.

EPA welcomes your input on the following Draft 1 Version 1.0 specification for ENERGY STAR qualified pre-rinse spray valves. This Eligibility Criteria document outlines the proposed draft product criteria and testing procedure that manufacturers would need to abide by in order to qualify their products as ENERGY STAR. Also enclosed is the ENERGY STAR Partner Commitments document, which provides the basic partnership requirements for participating manufacturers. These requirements include product labeling, submittal of ENERGY STAR shipment data, and reporting of qualified product information.

While reviewing the Draft 1 specification, please keep in mind that the primary objective of ENERGY STAR is to make it easy for buyers to identify the most energy-efficient products in the marketplace by differentiating them with the ENERGY STAR mark. As a voluntary, market-based program, it is not EPA's intention to design a specification that will allow every model to qualify. When EPA sets an initial specification, it strives to recognize the top performers in the market which offer attractive savings to the buyer at that time. For products that do not initially meet the specification, it is EPA's hope that manufacturers will improve efficiency over time, thus leading to more energy-efficient product choices.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. **All stakeholders are encouraged to review the Draft 1 specification and provide comments by March 7, 2005.** Written comments may be sent via email to Mehernaz Polad, ICF Consulting, at mpolad@icfconsulting.com. As needed, a stakeholder meeting may be arranged to address any comments or concerns that arise.

EPA will review and consider all stakeholder comments during this product development process. Comments will be posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site for review, unless the submitter indicates otherwise. If you support/concur with the Draft 1 Version 1.0 specification, or do not wish to comment, please state this in writing. It is equally important that EPA understand which portions of the draft specification meet with industry approval, in addition to identifying the sections that may need further revision and/or explanation.

In the coming months, EPA will gather stakeholder feedback on this Draft 1 and issue additional Draft specifications as necessary. It is EPA's intention to finalize the product specification over the next couple of months. The final specification will be issued in the ENERGY STAR Partnership Agreement format, which must be signed by interested pre-rinse spray valve manufacturers and EPA.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to review the enclosed Draft 1 Version 1.0 specification. To track the ENERGY STAR pre-rinse spray valve product development progress, go to the Pre-Rinse Spray Valve page under "New Specifications in Development" at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. I look forward to working with you during the next several months. Thank you for your interest in and support of the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Schmeltz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Program Manager

Enclosures

ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Pre-Rinse Spray Valves – Partner Commitments
ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Pre-Rinse Spray Valves – Eligibility Criteria