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ENERGY STAR® is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program helping businesses and individuals fight global warming through superior energy efficiency.

Dear ENERGY STAR Residential Clothes Washer Partner or Other Interested Party:

On May 14, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed stakeholders of its intention to discontinue the qualification of combination washer-dryers under the ENERGY STAR residential clothes washer specification. In the absence of an ENERGY STAR performance specification for residential clothes dryers, the Agency has concluded it is inappropriate to associate the ENERGY STAR label with all-in-one washer-dryers. In response to stakeholder comment on this issue, EPA has decided to go ahead and stop accepting new all-in-one washer-dryer qualifications but provide an opportunity for these models to demonstrate high efficiency performance on a whole-product basis.

To that end, in an effort to both provide consumers with accurate information regarding the energy use of their ENERGY STAR products and to ensure a level playing field among our partners, EPA will pursue the following course of action:

1. Establish test procedure that takes dryer energy use into account

Rather than eliminate all-in-one washer-dryers from the ENERGY STAR program, EPA intends to work with stakeholders to establish a test procedure, based on existing and forthcoming test methods, that can take into account both the washing and drying features of this product. An industry group has proposed to draft a test protocol for broader review and comment. The group's schedule includes plans for broader stakeholder review of 2 drafts of the test procedure, as well as a conference call to discuss the draft. Both drafts will be posted at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Please contact Kristen Taddonio at Taddonio.kristen@epa.gov if you are interested in joining this working group.

2. Establish new requirements for all-in-one washer-dryers based on whole-product performance

ENERGY STAR requirements for all-in-one washer-dryers would be based upon both washing and drying efficiency. Once a testing tool has been developed, EPA will offer stakeholders the opportunity to share data on the performance of their products. EPA will use this data to propose requirements for the drying function of these products. EPA will seek stakeholder feedback on these proposed levels as noted in the attached timeline. Products that are currently on the qualified product list may remain on the list until the end of this calendar year. Beginning in 2011, only those combination units certified to meet the new, whole-product performance requirements, assuming that process is successful, will be eligible for the label.

The attached table provides an updated implementation schedule. Thank you for your support of the ENERGY STAR program and your shared interest in protecting the integrity of this consumer brand. Please feel free to contact me at Taddonio.Kristen@epa.gov with questions.

Sincerely,

Kristen Taddonio,
ENERGY STAR for Appliances
US Environmental Protection Agency

All-in-One Washer-Dryer Timeline

Date	Action
Effective today	EPA will suspend qualification of new all-in-one unit washer dryers
Week of July 18, 2010	Draft test requirements released for comment
Week of July 25, 2010	Stakeholder call on test procedure
Week of August 15, 2010	Second draft of test requirement released for comment
Week of August 22, 2010	Test procedure finalized
Week of September 12, 2010	ENERGY STAR all-in-one requirements proposed
Week of September 26, 2010	Stakeholder call on requirements
Week of October 17, 2010	ENERGY STAR requirements finalized
Week of January 1, 2011	Final requirements go into effect.