

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 22, 2016

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Brand Owner or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the launch of the Version 8.0 ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification revision. EPA welcomes stakeholder input on the attached Draft 1 Version 8.0 specification.

With the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) standards changing on January 1, 2018, EPA believes stronger ENERGY STAR criteria will be necessary to effectively differentiate highly energy-efficient residential and commercial clothes washers. It is EPA's intention that the Version 8.0 specification take effect on January 1, 2018, aligning with the change in federal minimum efficiency standards.

The Draft 1 Version 8.0 incorporates the following key elements:

Residential Clothes Washer Energy and Water Criteria:

Revised Integrated Modified Energy Factor (IMEF) and Integrated Water Factor (IWF) criteria levels. For front load washers, EPA is proposing to increase the IMEF from 2.38 to 2.76 and strengthen the IWF from 3.7 to 3.2. For top load washers, EPA is proposing to increase the IMEF from 2.06 to 2.30 and the IWF from 4.3 to 3.8. Approximately 29 percent of all standard size residential clothes washers on the market currently meet these criteria.

Commercial Clothes Washer Energy and Water Criteria: Adopted 2018 metrics Modified Energy Factor J2 (MEF J2) and IWF, and revised efficiency levels. EPA is proposing an MEF J2 of 2.20 and an IWF of 4.0. Approximately 30 percent of all commercial clothes washers on the market currently meet these criteria.

Laundry Centers: EPA recognizes that laundry centers are especially important for small spaces and the multifamily sector. In response to stakeholder questions, as well as marketing that may confuse consumers, EPA is clarifying that laundry centers are eligible for ENERGY STAR certification and identifying the criteria that these products would be required to meet. In addition, EPA has proposed a definition for these product types.

Soliciting Feedback on Combination All-in-One Washer-Dryers: With the addition of an ENERGY STAR product category for clothes dryers in 2015, and the availability of the Appendix D2 test method to measure dryer energy use, based on stakeholder interest, EPA is evaluating expanding the ENERGY STAR clothes washer scope to include Combination All-in-One Washer-Dryers. As such, EPA has proposed updating the definition for these products, and is soliciting further comments regarding the water consumption of the dryer functionality and how that water consumption could be tested. EPA anticipates that, if adopted, the efficiency criteria for these products would be the same as the appropriate ENERGY STAR clothes washer and clothes dryer criteria.

Clarifying Definitions for Washers with Drying Functionality: EPA is updating definitions in order to alleviate the potential for confusion among partners and consumers, and welcomes stakeholder input.

Optional Connected Criteria: As brand owners begin to design and implement products with connected capabilities, EPA has received more detailed questions about the ENERGY STAR connected criteria. EPA is not substantively changing the criteria, but rather is updating the specification to directly incorporate clarifications that have already been provided in the [ENERGY STAR Connected Criteria Q&A document](#), which may be helpful to partners and stakeholders.

DOE is in the process of developing an ENERGY STAR test method to validate the demand response capabilities of residential clothes washers. To facilitate test method development, EPA encourages partners to provide products to DOE for testing. If you are interested please contact Melissa Fiffer (contact information below) and she will be happy to make an introduction for you.

EPA also invites partners and stakeholders interested in the connected appliance space to participate in the [Appliance Roadmapping](#) effort, which features a Connected working group operating through fall 2016.

Residential Clothes Washer Cleaning and Rinse Performance Optional Reporting: EPA is working with DOE to develop a test method to measure the cleaning and rinse performance of residential clothes washers in relation to energy and water use. EPA's interest is to advance a mechanism by which cleaning and rinse performance can be reviewed in a repeatable and reproducible manner. Test method development will follow its own timeline alongside the development of the Version 8.0 specification. EPA and DOE welcome partners and stakeholders who are interested in informing development of the test method to participate in the process, and encourage partners to submit data once the test method becomes available.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than August 12, 2016. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 1

EPA intends to host a webinar on August 3, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST) to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. You may register to participate by visiting the following Go To Webinar link [here](#).

Revision Schedule

The anticipated schedule for the ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer specification revision is as follows:

July 22, 2016	EPA releases Draft 1, Version 8.0 specification
August 3, 2016	Stakeholder webinar on Draft 1 specification
August 22, 2016	Comment period closes on Draft 1 specification
October 2016	EPA releases Draft 2, Version 8.0 specification; stakeholder webinar and comment period
TBD	Final Draft Version 8.0 specification and comment period
April 1, 2017	Final Version 8.0 specification released
January 1, 2018	Final Version 8.0 specification is effective

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Clothes Washers".

Please direct any specific questions to Melissa Fiffer at EPA, Fiffer.Melissa@epa.gov or 202-343-9464 or Ryan Fogle, D+R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. Please direct questions on Clothes Washer test methods to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you over the next few months on the Version 8.0 ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Fiffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Fiffer".

Melissa Fiffer, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances