

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

October 21, 2016

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

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is sharing the Draft 2, Version 8.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Specification and draft Test Method for Determining Residential Clothes Washer Cleaning Performance. EPA welcomes stakeholder input on both documents; please provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than November 21, 2016. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Energy and Water Criteria

EPA received multiple comments regarding the top-load residential clothes washer criteria. Stakeholders also shared market data that broke out top-load and front-load shipments that EPA did not have previously. Analysis of this data indicates that ENERGY STAR market share for top-load washers is lagging significantly behind that for front load washers. Based on an estimated ENERGY STAR market share of approximately 30%, EPA has concluded that a revision to the top-load residential clothes washer criteria is not warranted at this time. EPA anticipates that market conditions will have changed in time for the V9.0 revision process such that top-load criteria can be strengthened in a more meaningful way. EPA also received comments regarding the commercial clothes washer scope and has increased the capacity scope limitation from 6.0 cubic feet to 8.0 cubic feet.

EPA is maintaining the Draft 1 proposal for laundry centers, with a slight revision to the definition in response to comments. EPA believes that it is possible for these products to meet the ENERGY STAR criteria for both the clothes washer and clothes dryer criteria.

Combination All-in-One Washer-Dryers

In reviewing data from multiple manufacturers, EPA found that at least 20% of total water consumption of a combination all-in-one washer-dryer is from the dryer. This percentage is significant enough that the water consumption of the product should be tested and reported in order for combination all-in-one washer-dryers to be included in the program. While there is no test method at this time, in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), EPA believes that there are potential pathways forward. EPA has determined that combination all-in-one washer-dryers are not eligible for ENERGY STAR certification at this time. However, if there is interest from multiple partners, EPA will convene a working group to identify pathways forward for testing and reporting this water consumption, with participation from DOE. The goal of this effort would be to clarify the status and requirements of these products as part of a 8.1 revision. Interested stakeholders should email appliances@energystar.gov.

Optional Connected Criteria

EPA is maintaining the 5% allowance for clothes washers that meet optional connected criteria in order to continue helping jumpstart the market, while continuing to encourage manufacturers to provide test samples to support DOE's development of a test method to verify demand response functionality. EPA received multiple comments on clarifications proposed in Draft 1. In response, EPA has amended section 4B1 (Open Standards) to clarify the link to section 4C (Open Access). In section 4E (Remote Management), EPA has

reverted to the V7.1 text. In Sections 4D (Energy Consumption Reporting) and 4G (Demand Response), EPA has retained the language from Draft 1, as it is consistent with the ENERGY STAR program's approach to connected functionality across all products and reflects the Agency's latest work in this area. In addition, EPA notes that the criteria continues to keep consumers in control of their appliances at all times.

Residential Clothes Washer Cleaning Performance Reporting

EPA and DOE are enclosing a draft test method to measure the cleaning performance of residential clothes washers, and welcome stakeholder feedback to help ensure a repeatable and reproducible result. The Draft 2 specification retains a placeholder for recommended reporting of cleaning performance data once the test method is finalized.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 2

EPA intends to host a webinar on Thursday, November 3, 2016 from 2:30-4:30pm (EST) to discuss the Draft 2 specification and the draft Test Method for Determining Residential Clothes Washer Cleaning Performance. You may register to participate by visiting [Go To Webinar](#).

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, please 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 your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Fiffer".

Melissa Fiffer, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances