

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 19, 2020

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Dryer Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has become aware that clothes dryer cycles have increased in number and that settings have become much more adjustable since the [ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer Specification Version 1](#) (“Version 1”) became effective on January 1, 2015. In response, EPA is clarifying the intention of the ENERGY STAR specification, that ENERGY STAR certified clothes dryers default back to the cycle and settings in which they were tested and that savings information for downloadable cycles be made available for consumers.

Since Version 1 went into effect, EPA has learned of the availability of functionalities that impact the clothes dryer cycles that are typically used. Consumers with clothes dryers that are Wi-Fi-enabled, or “smart,” are now able to download specialized cycles. Also, for some dryer models, consumers can change default settings for some cycles in ways that persist. Additionally, EPA has discovered that some clothes dryer models default to the last-used cycle upon next use. These shifts in functionality could mean that a clothes dryer is rarely run in the cycle in which it was tested and obtained ENERGY STAR certification, likely contrary to consumer expectations.

EPA makes clear its intent that the tested mode persists per the note under Section 3.B of Version 1, that products “provide consumers with a satisfactory experience in the tested mode so as to encourage continued use and consistently yield both savings and environmental benefit.”

Further, the Version 1 specification requires manufacturers to provide the specific cycle and setting selections on which the energy-use rating of a dryer is based in informational materials per Section 3.C.a. Guidance about cycles and settings that may use more or less energy than the tested cycle must also be provided to consumers per Section 3.C.b.; this requirement applies to cycles that are downloadable post-installation, as well.

EPA is clarifying its expectation that future clothes dryers certified to Version 1 perform in a manner consistent with its stated intent regarding the consistent use of the default or tested mode. Specifically, certified models should default to the cycle and settings in which the products were tested and obtained ENERGY STAR certification prior to each use. Further, partners are required to provide consumers with information on the energy implications of downloadable cycles. This clarification reflects EPA’s heightened interest and attention to this issue.

Please contact me at Park.Ga-Young@epa.gov or (202) 564-1085, or Steve Leybourn at Steve.Leybourn@icf.com or (202) 862-1566 with any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ga-Young Park".

Ga-Young Park
Product Manager for Appliances
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products