

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 28, 2012

Dear Clothes Dryer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Draft 1 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR® Clothes Dryer specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on this draft specification to EPA no later than September 28, 2012. EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a stakeholder webinar on September 12, 2012, to discuss the Draft 1 specification.

EPA has initiated the ENERGY STAR specification process for clothes dryers because the Agency believes there are new opportunities to help consumers recognize the more efficient products in the marketplace and to reward partners who manufacturer and develop more efficient models. According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), clothes dryers account for about 4.3% of total residential energy use in the U.S. and, to date, are one of the largest end-use loads in the homes for which there is no voluntary or mandatory label in the U.S.

The attached Draft 1 proposal builds on ideas presented in the July letter launching this effort and includes the following key elements for stakeholder review and comment. EPA's rationale for these proposals is provided in note boxes throughout the specification.

- Minimum Efficiency Levels: EPA is proposing a set of energy efficiency levels, expressed using Combined Energy Factor (CEF) for five residential clothes dryer product classes that encompass standard size and compact size dryers as well as vented and ventless configurations. The product classes harmonize with DOE's product classes for the amended 2015 standards. The proposed levels reflect a 13% reduction in energy use from a baseline electric model and a 10% reduction in energy consumption from a baseline gas dryer. The Agency has used the amended DOE clothes dryer standards, effective January 1, 2015, as a baseline.
- Maximum Drying Time Requirement: Based on initial conversations with stakeholders, EPA is proposing to include a maximum drying time in the Version 1.0 specification of 50 minutes as tested under the DOE clothes dryer test procedure (Appendix D1). While not intended as a differentiator, EPA believes such a requirement will help to ensure that energy efficient dryers continue to meet consumer expectations for acceptable drying time.
- Automatic Termination Criteria: Automatic termination cycles can save energy by avoiding over-drying associated with timed drying cycles. EPA is proposing a requirement that clothes dryers have automatic termination that uses both temperature and moisture sensing controls. Additionally, based on conversations with manufacturers, the Agency has learned that it is likely that a significant portion of dryer users continue to use timed drying instead of a cycle with automatic termination. Timed drying can often lead to over drying clothes (thus wasting energy and possibly damaging or shortening the lifetime of clothes) because the cycle ends at the pre-determined amount of time, rather than stopping based on the clothes reaching an appropriate level of dryness. In order to further encourage consumer use of automatic termination, EPA is proposing to limit a timed-drying option to 15 minutes maximum.

- Warranty Requirements: EPA believes minimum warranty requirements will help increase consumer confidence in new energy-saving clothes dryer technologies and thus is proposing a minimum 3 year parts warranty for control boards (microprocessors) and a 5 year parts warranty on a sealed system.
- “Connected” Functionality: EPA is evaluating “connected” opportunities for clothes dryers in the Version 1.0 specification. Similar to what has been discussed for other products through ongoing specification efforts, EPA intends to propose optional connected clothes dryer criteria that enable both near-term consumer benefits associated with energy management and added convenience features as well as longer-term, societal benefits associated with smart grid interconnection. In support of this, EPA has included a 5 percent allowance as a temporary incentive to help “jump start” the market for dryers that offer connected functionality once an ENERGY STAR test method is available to verify the demand response (DR) functionality.

EPA is in the process of vetting optional connected product criteria for Refrigerators/Freezers (R/F) with stakeholders, through the Version 5.0 specification revision. In the Draft 1 clothes dryer specification, EPA has included a temporary placeholder for connected criteria and intends to propose criteria in the Draft 2 specification. The criteria will leverage the latest connected language developed for R/F and recommendations related to clothes dryer DR functionality provided to EPA and DOE in the 2010 *Joint Petition to ENERGY STAR to Adopt Joint Stakeholder Agreement as It Relates to Smart Appliances*. In addition to this, EPA is interested in stakeholder feedback as to whether price signals and related consumer feedback are of particular importance for clothes dryers given their schedulable nature.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 1

EPA and DOE will host a webinar on Wednesday September 12th from 10:00 am to 12:00 Noon EDT to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov by Friday, September 7th at 5:00 pm EDT. Further details will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the webinar.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov, no later than September 28, 2012. As a reminder, all comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Revision Schedule

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

August 27, 2012	Draft 1 specification distributed
September 12, 2012	Draft 1 stakeholder webinar
September 28, 2012	Draft 1 comment period ends
November/December 2012	Draft 2 specification distributed, stakeholder webinar, and comment period
February/March 2013	Final Draft specification distributed and comment period
April 2013	Final Version 1.0 specification published

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 developing new criteria for clothes dryers, please visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/newspeccs and click on “Clothes Dryers.”

Stakeholders that did not receive this letter via email and are interested in receiving stakeholder mailings and notifications on clothes dryers should provide contact information to appliances@energystar.gov, requesting to be added to the contact list for clothes dryers.

Please direct any specific questions about the Draft 1 specification to Amanda Stevens, EPA, at stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106; or Sean Southard, ICF International, at sean.southard@icfi.com or (202) 862-1585. Clothes dryer test method questions should be directed 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Stevens".

Amanda Stevens, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances