

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 11, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

In light of questions from stakeholders regarding the size of commercial clothes washers that are eligible for certification under ENERGY STAR Version 6.0 specification, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making a clarification to Version 6.0 that will be reflected in a Version 6.1.

The ENERGY STAR commercial clothes washer criteria were revised in 2012, with a February 1, 2013 effective date. As part of this process, EPA revised the commercial clothes washer definition, in part to allow a greater size range of commercial clothes washer units to qualify under the ENERGY STAR program if they could be tested under the current DOE clothes washer test procedure (10 CFR § 431.154). Since the release of Version 6.0, EPA and DOE have received questions regarding testing commercial clothes washer models with capacities that exceed the container volumes included in Appendix J1 Table 5.1 of the DOE clothes washer test procedure. As such, EPA believes adopting the capacity limit of 6.0 cubic feet from Appendix J1 of the DOE test procedure in the ENERGY STAR specification will provide stakeholders with additional clarity as to which products are eligible to qualify for the ENERGY STAR commercial clothes washer program. The clarification of this limit is consistent with the intent of the current Version 6.0 clothes washers specification.

The current Version 6.0 commercial clothes washer definition is as follows:

Commercial Clothes Washer: A soft-mounted front-loading or soft-mounted top-loading clothes washer that is defined for use in:

- (i) Applications in which the occupants of more than one household will be using the clothes washer, such as multi-family housing common areas and coin laundries; or*
- (ii) Other commercial applications.*

EPA will post a Version 6.1, that will include the following clarification:

Commercial Clothes Washer: A soft-mounted front-loading or soft-mounted top-loading clothes washer that has a clothes container compartment that is not more than 6.0 cubic feet and is defined for use in:

- (i) Applications in which the occupants of more than one household will be using the clothes washer, such as multi-family housing common areas and coin laundries; or*
- (ii) Other commercial applications.*

Stakeholders may provide any comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than 12/28/2012. EPA will post the Version 6.1 specification no later than one week after the end of the comment period. This clarification will also be incorporated into the Draft 2, Version 7.0 specification.

Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan at EPA, Kaplan.Katharine@epa.gov or (202) 343-9120 or Ryan Fogle, D&R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. Please direct questions on the Clothes Washer test method to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter on a clarification to Version 6.0.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Katharine Kaplan,
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Administration