

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 26, 2014

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide the attached Final Draft Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryers specification. EPA would like to acknowledge the ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the last many months to contribute feedback that has informed this specification development process.

Final Draft Highlights

The Final Draft reflects input received from stakeholders in response to the Supplemental Proposal, the Draft 2 specification and individual discussions with a range of stakeholders. The specification continues to reference the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) clothes dryer test procedure located in Appendix D2. This test procedure provides more accurate energy use and relative energy-efficiency comparisons and has been supported by a variety of stakeholders, including utilities, efficiency organizations and a manufacturer. The test procedure rewards manufacturers who use improved automatic termination control technology to reduce wasted energy at the end of the drying cycle, while also reducing wear and tear on clothing. Based on all the feedback received, EPA believes the benefits from measuring and rewarding products with more effective automatic termination controls are large while the potential for confusion resulting from the early use of Appendix D2 is small.

EPA also received feedback that recommended further strengthening the energy efficiency requirements, while others relayed that meeting the levels using the DOE test procedure located in Appendix D2 would be challenging. EPA has retained the levels in the Final Draft and believes these requirements, supported by a number of stakeholders, continue to strike the right balance -recognizing a selection of products that provide consumers with cost-effective energy savings. To ensure that efficiency gains are not made entirely at the expense of much longer drying cycles that consumers may find unacceptable, EPA has retained the maximum drying time requirement of 80 minutes.

The Final Draft specification does not include a testing and reporting requirement for the fastest drying cycle. Instead, the Agency has included a note making clear its intent that ENERGY STAR certified clothes dryers provide consumers with a satisfactory experience in the tested mode so as to encourage its continued use and consistently yield both savings and environmental benefit. EPA has also included requirements that manufacturers provide information to consumers on the mode that the product was tested in to earn ENERGY STAR certification and guidance on the energy use of different settings. EPA sees this as a step towards improving consumer understanding of the energy use rating and awareness of the implications that cycle/setting selection will generally have on energy use.

The Final Draft also includes a number of corrections and clarifications discussed in note boxes throughout the specification, including some revisions to the optional demand response (DR) criteria for ENERGY STAR clothes dryers.

Submittal of Written Comments

Any comments on the Final Draft Version 1.0 should be submitted via email to appliances@energystar.gov by April 16, 2014. All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise. EPA intends to finalize this specification in early May 2014 with a January 1, 2015 effective date. Based on feedback provided in support of the effective date, EPA anticipates that few models will meet the requirements under this specification in advance of 2015; however, to the extent there are any, early qualification will be available any time after the specification is final.

DOE is planning to develop a test method to validate the DR capabilities of residential clothes dryers. This test is anticipated to be a separate, add-on test method. Products would need to be qualified using this final and validated ENERGY STAR test method to use the proposed allowance. Related to the DR test, EPA will also further engage stakeholders to define a clothes washer's temporary appliance load reduction capability.

Please direct any specific questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, stevens.amanda@epa.gov or 202-288-1462 or Jessica Lyman, ICF International, at Jessica.lyman@ifci.com, 202-86201557. Questions on test method development should be directed to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-6590.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

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

Amanda Stevens,
Program Manager, Home Appliances
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products