

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 23, 2013

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide the attached Final Draft Version 7.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers 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.

The Version 7.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers specification will replace the current Version 6.1 specification. Its anticipated effective date is March 7, 2015.

Final Draft Highlights

The final draft reflects input received from stakeholders in response to the Draft 2 specification and individual discussions with different stakeholders. Stakeholders mostly supported the proposed performance levels. However, one stakeholder shared cost data showing that the proposed energy-efficiency requirements would necessitate more costly components for certain top load designs, such that the added cost and longer payback would outweigh the additional energy and cost savings gained from higher efficiency requirements. As such, EPA is proposing to modestly relax the criteria in the final draft.

Stakeholders also provided a range of feedback on the proposed product classes, with some stakeholders strongly supporting incorporating separate product classes for top load washers and front load washers, while others were concerned this approach may create confusion and noted more recent data showing wash cycle length was becoming more comparable for top and front loading models. EPA has retained separate product classes based on consumer preference for top loaders and the opportunity to differentiate among them as well as better differentiate among front loaders

Lastly, stakeholders shared opposing views on a separate class for smaller clothes washers. EPA has retained this separate class recognizing the value the ENERGY STAR can bring to consumers who have greater space constraints.

The final draft also includes several clarifications and edits to the optional connected criteria, in response to stakeholder feedback and to provide better consistency with similar criteria that had been proposed for ENERGY STAR clothes dryers. Based on stakeholder feedback and the complexity associated with defining and verifying a clothes washer's load reduction capability, EPA has added a placeholder in the final draft and plans to engage with stakeholders in 2014 to finalize the definition for a temporary load reduction.

Submittal of Written Comments

Any comments on the Final Draft Version 7.0 should be submitted via email to appliances@energystar.gov by January 17, 2014. EPA intends to finalize this specification by the end of January 2014. All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Additional Discussion of Ongoing Work

As a reminder, there are several ongoing clothes washer test procedure activities. EPA intends to integrate these into the ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification, once complete. These include:

- Cleaning and rinse performance: EPA has maintained a placeholder for a reporting requirement for cleaning and rinse performance in the Version 7.0. Once an ENERGY STAR test procedure is available, EPA will work with stakeholders to integrate further specificity for this reporting requirement. Presently, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is reviewing stakeholder comments on the proposed preliminary approach for determining cleaning and rinse performance. Further development of the test method is ongoing, and DOE and EPA plan to further discuss test method development with the Associated of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) in early 2014.
- Test method to validate Demand Response (DR) capabilities: DOE is planning to develop a test method to validate the DR capabilities of residential clothes washers. 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.
- Commercial clothes washer cross walk: In this Version 7.0 specification, DOE and EPA have also updated the test procedure reference for commercial clothes washers to Appendix J2 and plan to propose translations for the current commercial clothes washer MEF and WF levels included in Section 3 (based on Appendix J1), to MEF and WF levels based on Appendix J2, once DOE's crosswalk analysis is available.

Please direct any specific questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, stevens.amanda@epa.gov or 301-646-5634, or Ryan Fogle, D&R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. 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,



Amanda Stevens, Product Manager for Appliances
ENERGY STAR Labeled Products