

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 19, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Partner and Other Interested Stakeholders:

In April, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released for comment voluntary connected criteria intended to complement the Version 7.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer specification. EPA has considered all feedback received on this proposal and intends to make one meaningful change to the criteria by including an exemption to the Temporary Appliance Load Reduction (TALR) response criteria, as outlined in this letter.

The revised demand response criteria exempt clothes washers from providing TALR responses during NSF-certified sanitization and allergen reduction wash cycles. Stakeholders indicated that interruption of certain high temperature operations can result in the cycle failing to comply with applicable NSF International protocols, and restarting the high temperature operations results in added energy and water consumption and may damage wash items. Given the limited use of these cycles, the potential for consumer dissatisfaction, and impacts to energy use, EPA intends to exempt NSF-certified sanitization and allergen reduction cycles from the TALR response criteria.

It continues to be the Agency's intent that connected clothes washers be capable of providing a TALR response for the majority of cycles and settings. As such, EPA is retaining the modified Section 4.G language previously proposed and is revising to indicate the exemptions. To reflect the exemption of NSF International certified allergen and sanitize cycles, EPA plans to amend Section 4.G.2 to include an additional sub clause d. exempting NSF-certified sanitization and allergen reduction cycles, as follows in 4.G.2d:

From Section 4.G:

A connected clothes washer shall have the capability to receive, interpret and act upon consumer-authorized signals by automatically adjusting its operation depending on both the signal's contents and settings from consumers. At a minimum, the product shall be capable of providing the following capabilities for all cycle and setting combinations, except where otherwise noted:

From Section 4.G.2d:

The product is not required to provide a response if the consumer selected wash cycle is NSF certified to:

- *NSF Protocol P172 "Sanitization Performance of Residential and Commercial, Family-Sized Clothes Washers" or*
- *NSF Protocol P351 "Allergen Reduction Performance of Residential and Commercial, Family-Sized Clothes Washers"*

Note: EPA encourages products to provide Temporary Appliance Load Reduction responses in these cycles when sanitization or allergen reduction operations would not be impacted.

EPA also received comment on the revised definition for connected clothes washers' TALR capability, requiring that, at a minimum, the clothes washer restrict its average power draw during the load reduction period to no more than 50 watts. After reviewing the data and receiving input from DOE, EPA intends to maintain this criterion. The comments received, as well as EPA responses, are accessible in the comment-response matrix.

EPA intends to incorporate these criteria, once finalized, into a new Version 7.1 specification which will allow stakeholders the option of having products that meet the connected criteria identified as such on the ENERGY STAR qualified product list. Once a final ENERGY STAR clothes washer demand response test procedure is available, manufacturers who certify clothes washers to all Section 4 criteria and certify demand response capability using this test method, will be eligible to take advantage of the 5% energy allowance.

EPA will consider comments on this change to the voluntary connected criteria submitted by September 2, 2014 via email to appliances@energystar.gov. Please direct any specific questions to Melissa Fiffer, EPA, at Fiffer.Melissa@epa.gov or (202) 343-9464. Clothes washer test method questions should be directed to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Fiffer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" being more prominent than the last name "Fiffer".

Melissa Fiffer, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances