

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 28, 2011

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

The purpose of this letter is to formally announce that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is revising the commercial clothes washer criteria in the ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification. EPA welcomes stakeholder input on the attached Draft 1 Version 6.0, ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Clothes Washers.

EPA has initiated this specification revision in anticipation of new Federal standards for commercial clothes washers that will become effective in January 2013. Since the new Federal standards exceed the current ENERGY STAR levels, EPA has determined the ENERGY STAR criteria will need to be strengthened in order for the program to continue differentiating the most efficient commercial clothes washers. The Draft 1 Version 6.0 incorporates the following key elements:

- Revised Modified Energy Factor (MEF) and Water Factor (WF) criteria levels for commercial clothes washers. EPA is proposing to increase MEF from 2.0 to 2.2 and strengthen WF from 6.0 to 4.5. The proposed level is equivalent to the current Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) Tier 2 level. **EPA will not be proposing revisions to the criteria for residential clothes washers through this specification revision.**
- Proposal to harmonize the ENERGY STAR definition of a Commercial Clothes Washer with the applicable U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) definition, and other minor revisions intended to clarify, for stakeholders, several testing and reporting requirements.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than August 29, 2011. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 1

EPA intends to host a webinar on August 23, 2011, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon (EST) to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov. Stakeholders are requested to inform EPA of any industry events that may conflict with the proposed date. Further details will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the webinar.

Revision Schedule

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

July 28, 2011	EPA releases Draft 1, Version 6.0 specification
August 23, 2011	Stakeholder webinar on Draft 1 specification
August 29, 2011	Comment period closes on Draft 1 specification

October 2011	Final Draft specification distributed stakeholder webinar or meeting, and comment period.
November 2011	Final specification posted
January 8, 2013	Final specification effective

To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Commercial Clothes Washer specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Commercial Clothes Washers".

Please direct any specific questions to Amanda Stevens at EPA, stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106 or Ryan Fogle, D&R International, at rfogle@drintl.com or (301) 588-9387. Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. I look forward to working with you over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Amanda Stevens
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ENERGY STAR Appliance Program