

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

August 5, 2013

Dear Clothes Dryer Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the attached Draft 2 Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR® Clothes Dryer specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on this draft specification to EPA no later than September 13, 2013. The Agency will hold a stakeholder webinar on September 5, 2013, to discuss the Draft 2 specification.

EPA appreciates stakeholders' feedback on the Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryers Version 1.0 specification and the ongoing efforts and engagement of utility programs, appliance manufacturers and efficiency organizations to advance residential clothes dryer energy efficiency. This past June marked a major milestone when EPA awarded the first clothes dryer—Samsung dryer DV457—with the 2013 Emerging Technology Award for Advanced Clothes Dryers. The Emerging Technology Award recognizes early leadership in clothes dryer efficiency. Dryers that meet EPA's award criteria will provide energy savings of 27% or more relative to standard models and could reduce greenhouse gases by more than 6,000 pounds.

Since the Draft 1 specification was published last year, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed and now finalized an amendment to their dryer test procedure. This amendment offers the opportunity to more accurately assess the energy savings associated with automatic termination and therefore enables the ENERGY STAR program to offer more real-world based guidance to consumers.

With the publication of DOE's final test procedure, EPA is now releasing this Draft 2 specification making use of this test procedure. The Agency anticipates this test will provide the additional accuracy that stakeholders are looking for in characterizing energy use and relative energy-efficiency of clothes dryers being sold in the U.S. It will also provide manufacturers with an additional avenue for demonstrating enhanced clothes dryer efficiency through improved automatic termination control technology that reduces wasted energy at the end of the drying cycle.

In this draft, EPA is proposing revised efficiency criteria reflecting the performance of clothes dryers that offer high efficiency performance through available technologies such as improved automatic termination sensors and controls, modulation, heat recovery, drum improvements, insulation and heat pump or hybrid heat pump technology. The proposed efficiency levels were developed considering available test data, as well as the 2015 federal standards for clothes dryers. For a standard dryer, EPA estimates that models meeting the proposed efficiency criteria will use approximately 20% less energy than a conventional dryer. The Agency recognizes the existing set of publicly available test data is rather limited and welcomes additional data on the energy efficiency of products that would further inform level setting. The Agency's dataset and analysis is available on the ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 clothes dryer specification development website and also attached for your convenience.

Additional changes that EPA is proposing in Draft 2 include:

- Ventless Clothes Dryers: In response to stakeholder feedback that high efficiency ventless dryers available in other countries might be introduced or modified and introduced into the U.S./North American market, EPA is proposing to expand the scope of the specification to also include ventless standard electric and compact 120V configurations, using the same efficiency criteria as a similarly configured vented dryers.
- Proposed Reporting Requirement for Drying Time: Instead of the drying time requirement proposed in Draft 1, EPA is proposing in Draft 2 that the time to complete the DOE test procedure at Appendix D2 be recorded during the test and reported for ENERGY STAR certification. In support of this, DOE has developed proposed guidance, included in the Draft 2 specification, for stakeholder review.
- Removal of Automatic Termination Criteria & Warranty Requirements: With the updated reference to the DOE test procedure in Appendix D2, the Agency believes the automatic termination criteria proposed in Draft 1 are no longer necessary for ENERGY STAR as the updated test procedure will be capable of identifying effective automatic termination performance. Also, in light of stakeholder feedback received on the Draft 1 and absent more specific data on quality or longevity concerns of clothes dryers and their sub-components, EPA has decided to omit warranty requirements from the Draft 2 specification.
- Optional Connected Criteria: EPA is proposing optional connected criteria for residential clothes dryers that build upon the connected functionality in the final Version 5.0 Residential Refrigerators and Freezers specification, and closely align with the optional connected criteria recently proposed for residential clothes washers. Through close work with a range of stakeholders, EPA developed connected criteria that deliver immediate consumer utility as well as the promise of greater benefit as additional infrastructure is built and the use of variable electricity rates increases. In addressing connected functionality as part of this specification, EPA seeks to promote the well-proven benefits of standardization – a level playing field for manufacturers and interoperability that deliver consumer convenience and reduced costs.

Concurrently, DOE will be initiating an effort to develop a test procedure for clothes dryers with connected functionality. As part of this process, DOE will initiate discussions with manufacturers on obtaining products for testing or the possibility of visiting manufacturers' facilities as it did to develop a connected test method for refrigerators.

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 2

EPA will host a webinar on Thursday, September 5 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm EDT to discuss the Draft 2 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov by Friday, August 31 at 5:00 pm EDT. Further details will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the webinar. Shareholders who wish to be added to the agenda in order to share perspectives or new data that helps to facilitate additional stakeholder discussion on the Draft 2 proposal are asked to contact Amanda Stevens at stevens.amanda@epa.gov, as soon as possible.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov, no later than September 13, 2013. As a reminder, all comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Revision Schedule and Effective Date

EPA anticipates finishing the Clothes Dryers Version 1.0 specification in early 2014 or possibly sooner depending on the nature of the stakeholder comment received on this Draft 2. EPA plans to engage with manufacturers over the next several months to gather information on their timelines for testing products to the new test method and having products that meet ENERGY STAR requirements on the market. This information will assist EPA in identifying a date by which there will be a selection of ENERGY STAR products available for consumers to choose from.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. To follow EPA's progress in developing new criteria for clothes dryers, please visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/newspecc and click on "Clothes Dryers."

Stakeholders that did not receive this letter via email and are interested in receiving stakeholder mailings and notifications on clothes dryers should provide contact information to appliances@energystar.gov, requesting to be added to the contact list for clothes dryers.

Please direct any specific questions about the Draft 2 specification to Amanda Stevens, EPA, at stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106; or Jessica Lyman, ICF International, at jessica.lyman@icfi.com or (202) 862-1557 Clothes dryer test method questions should be directed to Ashley Armstrong, DOE, at Ashley.Armstrong@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-6590. Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Stevens". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Amanda Stevens, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances