

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 13, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Clothes Washer Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share the final Version 7.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Product Specification. EPA would like to thank the many stakeholders who have invested time and effort in this revision. Version 7.0 requirements will become effective on March 7, 2015. This letter provides highlights of the new requirements and outlines the transition process.

Final Version 7.0 Specification:

This specification establishes new energy and water efficiency requirements for residential clothes washers. Under the ENERGY STAR Version 7.0 specification, ENERGY STAR residential clothes washers will use, on average, approximately 25% less energy and 40% less water than required by minimum efficiency standards effective in 2015. If all residential clothes washers sold in the United States met these new requirements, the utility cost savings would grow to more than \$4 billion each year and more than 19 billion pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented, equivalent to the emissions from more than 1.7 million vehicles. This final specification will highlight the best of top loaders, front loaders, and small washers and will recognize models with new connected functionality, providing immediate consumer convenience and longer term grid benefit too.

New Product Classes

Different product classes for top and front loading machines will enable the program to continue to recognize a selection of highly efficient top load clothes washers, while also defining front load washer criteria that better reflect the efficiency performance of front loaders that are available today. A new product class for smaller clothes washers (2.5 cubic feet and smaller) will recognize efficient smaller clothes washers, in light of the unique value they provide to consumers with space constraints.

Optional Connected Criteria

This specification also establishes the first set of optional "connected" criteria for residential clothes washers. ENERGY STAR washers with connected functionality will offer consumers new convenience and energy-savings features, such as an alert indicating there is a performance issue or feedback to consumers on the energy-efficiency of different wash cycle selections. These products will also be "smart grid" ready, meaning they will give consumers the option to connect their clothes washer with their local utility to save money on their energy bills, where those services are offered, and also facilitate broader electric power system efficiency.

EPA will continue to work with stakeholders to define temporary appliance load reduction capability for a clothes washer. Once complete, the language will be integrated into the Version 7.0 specification (i.e., through a Version 7.1 development) and manufacturers/brand owners will be able to certify clothes washers to these optional criteria. DOE is also planning to develop a test method to validate the demand response capabilities of residential clothes washers. This test is anticipated to be a separate, add-on test method to the ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer specification. Products would need to be qualified using this final and validated ENERGY STAR test method to use the proposed allowance.

Cleaning Performance

While a number of stakeholders support including cleaning and rinse performance in the ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification, others objected to an explicit cleaning and rinse requirement. Based on stakeholder feedback, and with an interest in ensuring ENERGY STAR products perform as well as or better than conventional products, EPA believes it is increasingly necessary for the program to understand how performance dimensions, such as cleaning and rinse performance, vary with energy and water use. Once collected, this information would allow EPA to more fully evaluate cleaning performance and energy and water use concurrently during future specification revisions. EPA and DOE will continue to discuss with stakeholders how best to move forward with test procedure development and cleaning/rinse performance data collection for clothes washers.

EPA received comments on the Final Draft that resulted in several modest edits to the final specification. Of particular note, the 6.0 cubic foot capacity limit for residential clothes washers was removed in light of larger capacity washers entering the market that have approached this limit, and in order to avoid unintentionally excluding larger efficient residential clothes washers from the program. The final specification also includes several minor clarifications such as aligning the Water Factor definition in Section 1 with DOE's definition and clarifying that some values in Tables 1 and 3 are based on Appendix J1.

Considering DOE ongoing test procedure rulemaking for commercial clothes washer test procedure, EPA has also updated the test procedure reference for commercial clothes washers to cite Appendix J1 and plans to consider incorporating Appendix J2 at a later date, once DOE has published a final rule.

Version 7.0 Transition Timeline and Next Steps:

EPA shares partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next so that consumer expectations are met, and ENERGY STAR labeled products fully meet the new requirements upon their effective date. With this in mind, EPA has established the following timeline:

- Effective immediately and consistent with applicable Department of Energy and Federal Trade Commission rules and guidance for early use of the amended clothes washer test procedure, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify eligible products to the Version 7.0 requirements.
- After September 1, 2014, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 6.1. Note, however, that existing certifications to Version 6.1 will remain valid for the purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until March 7, 2015.
- Any clothes washer manufactured as of March 7, 2015 must meet the Version 7.0 requirements to bear the ENERGY STAR mark. All certifications of products to the Version 6.1 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 7.0 to EPA.

Please note that ENERGY STAR partnership as a manufacturer is limited to organizations that own and/or license a brand name under which they sell eligible products in the United States and/or Canada. Partnership is not available to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that do not sell directly to consumers or end users. OEMs may certify products on behalf of the ENERGY STAR brand owners/licensees; however the brand owner must be the ENERGY STAR partner associated directly with the certified product models, since only partners are authorized to use the ENERGY STAR certification mark.

EPA thanks all stakeholders who provided feedback during this specification revision process and looks forward to working with you as you qualify and market your ENERGY STAR clothes washers. Please direct any specific questions on the clothes washer specification to Amanda Stevens at EPA,

stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (213) 244-1811. Questions on test methods 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
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances