

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

December 12, 2013

Dear Residential Dishwasher Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a revision of the ENERGY STAR Version 5.2 Residential Dishwashers specification. The current ENERGY STAR specification has been in place since January 2012, with minor revisions since that time due to changes in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) minimum standards and test procedure for dishwashers.

This specification is being revised in response to several different factors. Presently, the 2013 Federal standards for dishwashers are only modestly less stringent than those in the current ENERGY STAR specification. Revised energy- and water- criteria will offer both greater savings and better differentiation relative to standard products in the marketplace. This revision will also offer the opportunity for the Agency to engage stakeholders on new levels for compact dishwashers, which have been suspended from the program due to the lack of differentiation between the ENERGY STAR requirements and the new Federal standard. EPA has also seen that the market has responded quickly to the most recent specification revision in 2012; that year, an estimated 89% of residential dishwashers sold in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR.

As discussed in the May 2013 communication to stakeholders, this Version 6.0 specification development effort will also provide the first opportunity to integrate the new cleaning performance test procedure that has been developed by DOE, into the ENERGY STAR residential dishwasher specification. Based on initial research, EPA believes there continues to be opportunity to recognize more efficient dishwashers—and with the use of a new cleaning performance test method—ensure ENERGY STAR labeled products continue to deliver upon consumer expectations for cleaning performance.

EPA anticipates that key elements of the Version 6.0 specification will be:

- Revised energy and water criteria.
- A reporting requirement of cleaning performance, using the new ENERGY STAR test method. DOE anticipates publishing a final test procedure in early 2014.
- Inclusion of optional 'connected' criteria and an associated allowance for dishwashers with new features that can offer consumers' convenience, control and energy savings, as well as benefit the electric grid in the future through new demand response capabilities.

Next Steps

EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the revised specification in February 2014 and anticipates completing the specification revision later that year. Under this schedule, Version 6.0 would be effective sometime in 2015, i.e., 9 months after the specification is finalized. As EPA moves forward with revising the current requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail updates, and stakeholder meetings.

To follow EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Dishwasher specification, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and next to "Dishwashers" click on "Version 6.0 is in development".

Stakeholders who did not receive this letter via e-mail and are interested in receiving stakeholder mailings and notifications on residential dishwashers should provide contact information to appliances@energystar.gov, requesting to be added to the contact list for residential dishwashers.

Please direct any specific questions about the launch letter or specification development process to Amanda Stevens, EPA, at stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (301) 646-5634; or Jessica Lyman, ICF International, at Jessica.Lyman@icfi.com or (202) 862-1557. Dishwasher 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 ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Stevens".

Amanda Stevens, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances