

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

October 12, 2011

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide a Draft 1, Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Specification that contains proposed revisions to address combination all-in-one clothes-dryers. EPA welcomes your comments on this draft specification; please submit comments no later than November 11, 2011. Residential clothes washers are not affected by these proposed changes and will not need to be re-qualified.

In May 2010, EPA informed stakeholders of its intention to discontinue the qualification of combination all-in-one washer-dryers (hereafter, referred to as combination W/Ds) under the ENERGY STAR clothes washer specification. In the absence of an ENERGY STAR performance specification for residential clothes dryers, EPA concluded it was inappropriate to associate the ENERGY STAR label with combination W/Ds. Since that time, EPA has worked with stakeholders to identify a pathway for combination W/Ds to demonstrate efficiency on a whole-product basis. EPA concluded the first phase of this process in September 2010, when the Agency issued a notice to stakeholders specifying an interim test procedure for combination W/Ds through which manufacturers would test and report washing and drying functions separately.

Since that time, EPA has received test data from several stakeholders. Based on this test data, EPA proposes the following requirements and definitions for combination W/Ds that would enable these products to qualify for ENERGY STAR:

- A new drying energy efficiency performance requirement: Combined Energy Factor (CEF) \geq 2.5
- Drying water consumption reporting requirement
- New definitions for combination W/Ds and CEF

EPA proposes that Combination W/Ds meeting these requirements could be qualified to ENERGY STAR as soon as specification development effort is completed

Stakeholder Webinar to Discuss Draft 1

EPA intends to host a webinar on October 21, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (EST) to discuss the Draft 1 specification and address stakeholder questions. To RSVP, please email appliances@energystar.gov. Further details will be distributed to confirmed attendees in advance of the webinar.

Comment Submittal

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than November 11, 2011. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

As stakeholders may be aware, EPA is also currently revising the criteria for commercial clothes washers that are also covered within the ENERGY STAR clothes washer program; these changes are occurring through a separate stakeholder process. EPA issued a Draft 1 proposal for commercial washers on July 28, 2011. EPA plans to combine changes from both the commercial washer revision and the combination

W/D revision, into a final Version 6.0 specification document upon completion of both stakeholder processes.

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 combination W/Ds, please visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "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.

Sincerely,

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

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