

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 26, 2012

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide a Draft 2, Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Specification with revisions addressing combination all-in-one washer-dryers (combo W/Ds). EPA welcomes your comments on this draft specification; please submit comments no later than February 24, 2012.

In response to the Draft 1 proposal, EPA received comments from stakeholders expressing concern that the specification would not address a significant portion of the water consumption of a combo W/D. Based upon this feedback and further evaluation, EPA is also concerned that as proposed, the ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria may not highlight for consumers, products with the best overall energy and water performance. The data EPA received from manufacturers suggests that some models could consume a significant amount of water during drying, relative to the water that is used for washing. This would reduce the savings that consumers would see from a combo W/D. Given this, EPA believes that in order to cover combo W/Ds, an ENERGY STAR specification needs to include a minimum performance requirement for the water consumption associated with the drying cycle. EPA plans to further evaluate performance requirements for combo W/Ds that address both energy and water when the Agency revisits the ENERGY STAR levels for all residential clothes washers later this year. In the interim, combo W/Ds will continue to be ineligible to earn the ENERGY STAR.

Additional changes being introduced in Draft 2 include:

- Proposed change to the definition of a combo W/D, to specify in the definition that a combo W/D has a separate drying cycle.
- New definition and reporting requirements for a residential clothes washer with an optional drying cycle (where drying is accomplished using a heat source and forced air circulation and is only available as an add-on cycle; i.e., drying cycle cannot be selected independently from a wash cycle).

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov, no later than February 24, 2012. 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 Final Draft for commercial washers on November 4, 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, anticipated to occur in March 2012.

Since EPA is proposing to defer further consideration of performance requirements for combo W/Ds, a webinar is not being planned. However, EPA would be happy to discuss the Draft 2 proposal with stakeholders, if so requested. To schedule a meeting or request that EPA plan a conference call, please

contact me at stevens.amanda@epa.gov or (202) 343-9106. For any general questions on this specification development effort you may contact either me 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 and your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

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

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