

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 29, 2012

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide a Final Draft, Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Specification with revisions addressing combination all-in-one washer-dryers (combo W/Ds) and residential clothes washers with an optional dry cycle. EPA welcomes your comments on this Final Draft specification; please submit comments no later than April 13, 2012.

This Final Draft reflects EPA's decision to exclude washers with an optional dry cycle. After considering stakeholder feedback received on the Draft 2 proposal, EPA has decided to wait to include them until there is both a selection of products with an optional dry cycle available on the market and appropriate testing standards have been developed for them. Once test requirements are available, EPA would be able to establish minimum requirements that address the drying energy and water performance through a stakeholder process, eliminating any possibility of consumer confusion with having the ENERGY STAR label associated with a product based only on its washing performance. This approach will also provide a more level playing field for combo W/Ds and residential clothes washers with an optional dry cycle.

As noted previously, EPA plans to review and revise the ENERGY STAR criteria for all residential clothes washers later in 2012. This presents an opportunity for EPA to further consider establishing minimum performance requirements for combo W/Ds.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide written comments via email to appliances@energystar.gov no later than April 13, 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 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, in late April 2012.

EPA thanks shareholders who provided feedback during this specification revision. 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
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances