

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 2, 2012

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share with you the final Version 6.0 ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer Specification. EPA would like to acknowledge the ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past several months to ensure the successful completion of the Version 6.0 specification. EPA has considered all stakeholder feedback carefully in developing this final specification. This letter summarizes the Agency's final decisions regarding these new requirements and outlines the schedule for qualifying products using Version 6.0

Effective Date

The Version 6.0 specification will take effect on February 1, 2013.

Scope of Changes

The final Version 6.0 reflects changes to the commercial clothes washer requirements and the results of EPA's consideration of combination all-in-one washer dryers (combo W/Ds). The requirements for residential clothes washers are unchanged. More specifically, this final specification includes the following:

- A requirement that commercial clothes washers meet a minimum Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 2.2 and a maximum Water Factor (WF) of 4.5.
- Language excluding combo W/Ds and clothes washers with an optional dry cycle from earning the ENERGY STAR until further data and test procedure work is available, is also reflected in Version 6.0.
 - For combo W/Ds, EPA decided minimum requirements need to address both the energy and water consumption during drying and is seeking more information and data on the water consumption of these products. EPA will consider such data in an upcoming clothes washer review.
 - With respect to clothes washers with an optional dry cycle, EPA has decided to wait to include them until there is a selection of products with an optional dry cycle available on the market and appropriate testing standards have been developed for them. EPA may consider them again when these market conditions exist.

To help clarify that they are not currently eligible to earn the ENERGY STAR, EPA is also incorporating the definitions for combo W/D and clothes washers with an optional dry cycle developed through this stakeholder process, into Version 5.1.

Next Clothes Washer Specification Review

EPA plans to review the ENERGY STAR criteria for all residential clothes washers later in 2012 for possible revision, presenting an opportunity for the Agency to further consider establishing minimum performance requirements for combo W/Ds.

Version 6.0 Deployment Timeline

EPA shares its Partners' desire for a smooth transition from one ENERGY STAR specification version to the next, with the objective of meeting consumer expectations that products on the market when the new specification takes effect meet the latest ENERGY STAR requirements. With this in mind and consistent with its approach for other product categories, EPA has established the following timeline for clothes washers:

- Effective immediately, manufacturers may elect to have their Certification Body (CB) certify their eligible products to the Version 6.0 requirements.
- After October 1, 2012, CBs will be instructed to stop certifying new product submittals to Version 5.1. Note, however, that existing certifications to Version 5.1 will remain valid for the purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification until February 1, 2013.
- As of February 1, 2013, any product shipped with an ENERGY STAR label must meet Version 6.0 requirements. All certifications of products to the Version 5.1 specification will be invalid for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification and CBs will only submit product models certified to Version 6.0 to EPA. Because the requirements for residential clothes washers have not changed, manufacturers of residential clothes washers qualified to Version 5.1 will need to have their CB transfer certification to Version 6.0 prior to February 1, 2013.

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 your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,



Amanda Stevens
Product Manager
ENERGY STAR Appliances