



1111 19th Street NW > Suite 402 > Washington, DC 20036
t 202.872.5955 f 202.872.9354 www.aham.org

September 7, 2018

Via E-Mail

Abigail Daken
Manager
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dehumidifiers@energystar.gov

Re: ENERGY STAR Program Requirements; Product
Specification for Dehumidifiers, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 5.0

Dear Ms. Daken:

On behalf of the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), I would like to provide our comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Dehumidifiers, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 5.0.

AHAM represents manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and suppliers to the industry. AHAM's membership includes over 150 companies throughout the world. In the U.S., AHAM members employ tens of thousands of people and produce more than 95% of the household appliances shipped for sale. The factory shipment value of these products is more than \$30 billion annually. The home appliance industry, through its products and innovation, is essential to U.S. consumer lifestyle, health, safety and convenience. Through its technology, employees and productivity, the industry contributes significantly to U.S. jobs and economic security. Home appliances also are a success story in terms of energy efficiency and environmental protection. New appliances often represent the most effective choice a consumer can make to reduce home energy use and costs.

AHAM supports EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) in their efforts to provide incentives to manufacturers, retailers, and consumers for energy efficiency improvement, as long as product performance can be maintained for the consumer. Because the appliance standards program is the foundation for the ENERGY STAR program, it is critical that program elements are harmonized to reduce burden and confusion for manufacturers and, ultimately, consumers.

I. Harmonization With DOE

As AHAM has commented numerous times, EPA must ensure the ENERGY STAR program is based upon the foundation DOE lays in the appliance standards program, including product and other applicable definitions, product classes, test procedures, and sampling requirements. DOE conducts lengthy, thorough, and transparent rulemakings to set those definitions, product classes, test procedures, and sampling requirements and the regulations are subject to notice and comment rulemaking. Thus we are glad to see that this proposed revision works to further refine EPA's alignment with DOE's already-existing regulations. EPA's citation of DOE's applicable definitions and other requirements is the only way for the two agencies setting energy-related criteria for home appliances to avoid confusion. EPA should not stray from determinations DOE has made through its lengthy rulemaking process, which has already gone through a rigorous and transparent analysis.

Accordingly, we appreciate and support EPA's proposal to update its definitions, product classes, test procedure, and other related test requirements with DOE's applicable definitions and requirements. In particular, we note that AHAM strongly opposed EPA's departure from DOE's product classes in the past and so we support EPA's return to using the same product classes DOE has determined, through its lengthy and transparent process, are appropriate. These product classes were set after rigorous comment and analysis and EPA, as a partner with DOE in implementing the ENERGY STAR program, should do as it has proposed and be consistent with its sister agency.

II. Eligibility Criteria

In its analysis supporting the proposed eligibility criteria, EPA evaluated the number of models that would meet the proposed levels rather than looking at the shipments those models represent. AHAM recognizes that this approach is outlined in the ENERGY STAR Products Program Strategic Vision and Guiding Principles. But the approach is flawed because simply counting models can miss the penetration of those models in the market. It could be that the models meeting the levels are low volume models and thus, those models may not be representative of the market. And, if the models meeting the proposed criteria are relatively unavailable, that could mean that the proposed levels will not actually achieve the consumer and environmental benefits EPA estimates in its analysis.

Accordingly, AHAM proposes that EPA change this approach broadly. EPA has better data submitted to it by partners—in this case, shipments of ENERGY STAR dehumidifiers compared to overall dehumidifier shipments. EPA should rely on shipment data to evaluate its proposed qualification criteria.

III. Test Requirements

In the draft, EPA indicates that companies can use applicable test procedure waivers DOE grants for certain dehumidifier technologies. We note that this is the case for all product categories. When DOE grants a test procedure waiver, the company receiving that waiver is, in fact, obligated to use that waiver to demonstrate compliance with applicable energy conservation

standards for the and to make all energy-related representations. *See* 10 C.F.R. 430.27 (requiring manufacturers of basic models subject to a waiver to comply with all other requirements of 10 C.F.R. Part 430 and Part 429). Thus, for consistency with the federal regulatory requirements, our understanding has always been that those waivers would also be used to demonstrate ENERGY STAR eligibility.

IV. Effective Date

EPA indicated in the proposed criteria that the effective date for the Version 5.0 specification is likely to be Fall 2019. AHAM supports that timeframe and we respectfully request that, consistent with prior dehumidifier specification effective dates, the effective date be at the end of October 2019—we propose October 31, 2019.¹ An effective date at the end of October is also consistent with design and sales cycles, which is one reason why EPA has used dates at the end of October for previous specifications.

AHAM appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the ENERGY STAR Product Specification for Dehumidifiers, Eligibility Criteria, Draft 1, Version 5.0 and would be glad to further discuss these matters should you so request.

Best Regards,



Jennifer Cleary
Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs

¹ The Version 4.0 specification took effect on October 25, 2016; Version 3.0 took effect on October 1, 2012; tier 1 of the Version 2.0 specification took effect on October 1, 2006.