

Clothes washer specification established for 2007

CEE has revised the performance specification for its Residential Clothes Washer Initiative. At the Dec. 3 Board of Directors Meeting, the CEE Board approved a new – and more stringent – specification, which will become effective Jan. 1, 2007.

“This is the longest lead time we’ve ever given to manufacturers,” said CEE Residential Program Manager Rebecca Foster.

“We’re anticipating that manufacturers will be retooling in advance of the new federal standard. Our new specification will give them additional incentive to manufacture models that meet higher efficiency levels.”

As of Jan. 1, 2007, the federal minimum standard for residential clothes washers will include a Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.26.

The current federal standard for MEF is 1.04. MEF measures the number of cubic feet of laundry that can be washed and dried with 1 kWh of electricity.

CEE’s current specifications include an MEF which ranges from 1.42 (Tier 1) to 1.8 (Tier 3B). MEF levels for the new specification will range from 1.8 to 2.2. In addition, the Water Factor (WF) in CEE’s specification will also become more stringent (see chart above).

CEE revised clothes washer specification

Effective Jan. 1, 2007

Level	MEF	WF
Tier 1	1.8	7.5
Tier 2	2.0	6.0
Tier 3	2.2	4.5

In response to the scheduled increase in federal standards, ENERGY STAR® is also revising its clothes washer specifications. CEE’s Residential Appliances Committee is strongly recommending that ENERGY STAR adopt the Tier 1 MEF and WF levels (1.8 MEF and 7.5 WF).

CEE dishwasher specification is under revision

page 14

To date, WF has not been a part of the ENERGY STAR specification, and the Committee is encouraging DOE to adopt this metric.

Members have stated their need for an advanced specification in order to justify program continuation and they have urged ENERGY STAR to support CEE’s Tier 1 performance levels so that they can garner the necessary energy savings.

“Committee members, however, are prepared to support the CEE specification regardless of ENERGY STAR’s decision,” said CEE Executive Director Marc Hoffman.

As part of the specification development process, CEE sought input from manufacturers and other industry stakeholders.

And for the first time, CEE also included a select group of water utilities in Appliance Committee discussions, which had previously been open only to members.

When compared to standard-efficiency clothes washers, models meeting the new CEE specifications will save from 276-393 kWh and up to 9,400 gallons of water per year.

“There are products currently available at all three tier levels,” said Foster. “We expect there will be more washers available at these efficiency levels when the new standard becomes effective in 2007.”

CEE’s Appliance Committee recently began to discuss the best ways to support the new specification in 2005 and 2006. Several members are considering differentiated rebate levels at the 2007 Tier 1 level to help prepare the market for the implementation of the new specification.