

September 15, 2008

Mr. Richard Karney
Energy Star Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Building Technologies Program
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0121

RE: Comments on Proposed Revisions to the ENERGY STAR Dishwasher Program

The Department of Energy (“DOE”) has begun the process of examining the ENERGY STAR criteria for its Dishwasher program to address changes in the federal minimum efficiency standards which will take effect on January 1, 2010. As stated in the Market Impact Analysis¹ the goals of this analysis are to provide a meaningful differentiation between ENERGY STAR qualified products and those that just meet the Federal standard. We are providing these comments for your consideration.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (“AHAM”) is a trade association representing the manufacturers of major, portable and floor care home appliances, and their suppliers.

Appliance Manufacturer’s Tax Credit

On February 27, 2008, the House of Representatives passed legislation (H.R. 5351) that provided \$18.1 billion in renewable energy tax incentives, including an extension of the appliance manufacturer’s tax credit. However, this legislation has stalled in the Senate and its ultimate fate is uncertain.

The second tier of the Energy Star dishwasher specification -307 kWh/year/5.0 G/C- appears to be based on the assumption that the appliance manufacturer’s tax credit will be enacted into law this year. While our industry is working hard toward that eventuality, it is uncertain when this bill will be enacted. AHAM members bargained in good faith for a package that included a new ENERGY STAR level set at 324 kWh/year/5.8 G/C, along with an accompanying tax credit for meeting that level. Also, an additional tax credit for products that meet an even stricter standard was included as a further incentive to invest in higher efficiency products. Until these tax credits are enacted into law, our members

¹ Market Assumption of Potential Changes to the ENERGY STAR® Criteria for Clothes Washers, August 15, 2008 (the “Market Impact Analysis”)

cannot support an ENERGY STAR level at 307 kWh/year/5.0 G/C. If the Department of Energy were to proceed with adopting this second tier level in the absence of its accompanying tax credit, it would not only make the transition to this level infeasible in the time identified, but would also undermine the integrity of the process of jointly resolving and proposing industry standards.

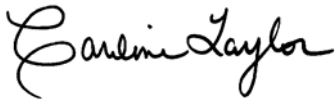
Phosphate Ban

In addition, as the Department points out, manufacturers are not only facing new federal standards, but also uncertainty over the performance of dishwashers due to state laws banning the use of cleaning agents in household dishwashers that contain phosphorous in excess of 0.5% by weight. These new laws will go into effect on July 1, 2010. At this point, it is unclear how manufacturers will adhere to these new requirements and produce dishwashers that will meet and/or exceed ENERGY STAR criteria.

As a result of the phosphate ban and the uncertainty of the appliance manufacturer's tax credit, AHAM believes that the second proposed phase of ENERGY STAR criteria that is set to begin on July 1, 2011, should not be established at this time. Instead, we urge ENERGY STAR to wait until 2011 to re-evaluate the market and then determine whether or not to implement new criteria.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our remarks. AHAM looks forward to working with the Department as it revises the ENERGY STAR criteria. Please feel free to contact me at 202-872-5955 or ctaylor@aham.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Taylor". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Caroline Taylor
Manager, Government Relations