

This final document represents the definitive view of the agency on the questions addressed and may be relied upon by the regulated industry and members of the public.

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Guidance Type: Certification and CCMS, Test Procedures, Conservation Standards

Category: Residential Products, Commercial and Industrial Equipment

Product: Residential clothes washers, Commercial clothes washers

Guidance Version: FINAL

Issued: May 29, 2012

Compliance Date: April 6, 2012

Q: How are large-capacity clothes washers tested, rated, and certified?

A: On March 7, 2012, the Department of Energy published in the Federal Register a final rule amending the clothes washer test procedure set forth at 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix J1 and establishing new test procedures at Appendix J2. The test procedure final rule amendments became effective April 6, 2012. Compliance with the amended Appendix J1 was required as of April 6, 2012, and use of the new test procedures at Appendix J2 will be required on March 7, 2015, assuming that DOE does not receive adverse comments that result in the withdrawal of its Direct Final Rule (see http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/pdfs/rcw_direct_final_rule_5_14_2012.pdf) regarding standards for residential clothes washer.

The final rule in part amended Table 5.1—Test Load Sizes in Appendix J1 to accommodate clothes washers with clothes container capacities up to 6.0 cubic feet. Previously, Table 5.1 accommodated capacities up to 3.8 cubic feet. The amended version of Table 5.1 provides a linear extension of the previous version of the table, using the same proportional relationship of maximum test load size to clothes washer capacity, fixed minimum test load size, and calculation of average test load size. Table 5.1 in Appendix J2 contains this same modification.

DOE has previously issued guidance on this topic, available at http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/pdfs/cw_large_capacity_faq_2011-11-10.pdf. The prior guidance stated that clothes washers with container capacities larger than 3.8 cubic feet could not be sold in the United States without a waiver, and that all large-capacity clothes washers must be tested, rated, and certified using the test procedure set forth in the waiver. The waivers granted by DOE regarding large-capacity clothes washers also provided a linear extension to Table 5.1.

As a result of the extension of Table 5.1 in DOE's regulations, manufacturers are no longer required to submit waivers for alternative test procedures for clothes washers with capacities up to 6.0 cubic feet. Beginning April 6, 2012, all such large-capacity clothes washers with capacities up to 6.0 cubic feet must be tested, rated, and certified using the extended Table 5.1. Existing waivers for large-capacity clothes washers are no longer valid.