



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

APR - 7 2006

Dear Interested Party:

OFFICE OF
WATER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will soon be launching a new, voluntary Water Efficiency Program that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and services. The EPA Water Efficiency Program seeks to change the way the American public and businesses think about water and make decisions regarding water use and water using products. The attached program overview provides general information on EPA's overall Water Efficiency Program.

At this time, EPA is establishing criteria to certify high efficiency, high performing toilets eligible to be labeled under the EPA Water Efficiency Program. Product certification and labeling, together with broad education/outreach campaigns and partnerships with key stakeholders, will transform the marketplace and make water-efficient products the clear and preferred choice among consumers and organizations.

Toilets are by far the main user of water in the home, accounting for approximately 30 percent of residential indoor water use. Therefore, high efficiency toilets offer the opportunity to achieve significant water use savings. High efficiency toilets will be one of the first products eligible for certification via EPA's Water Efficiency Program. By designating products that meet performance and water-use specifications, the program will help consumers identify water-efficient products that perform well, save money, and encourage innovation in manufacturing.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of the draft specifications for high efficiency, high performing toilets under the program and ask for your feedback on these specifications. EPA will accept written comments and hold a public meeting to discuss stakeholder comments. Following the comment period, EPA will make any necessary revisions to the criteria, publish the final criteria, and begin accepting applications for recognition of products.

Earning EPA's Water Efficiency Program Label for High Efficiency Toilets

EPA Water Efficiency Program label will apply to the following types of toilet fixtures:

- Single-flush, tank-type gravity toilets,
- Dual-flush, tank-type gravity toilets,
- Dual-flush, tank-type flushometer tank (pressure-assist) toilets,
- Tank-type, flushometer tank (pressure-assist) toilets, and
- Tank-type electrohydraulic toilets.

The attached specification provides the criteria that toilet models will need to meet under the Water Efficiency Program. The specifications are designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of user satisfaction with flushing performance. To be certified under the program, toilets must be independently tested to meet criteria in three areas:

- Effective flush volume shall not exceed 1.28 gallons (4.8 liters),
- Solid waste removal must be 350 grams or greater, and
- The toilet must conform to the adjustability and other supplementary requirements as specified.

Detailed requirements are included in the draft specifications.

Providing Input on the Draft Specifications

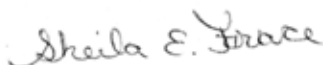
EPA welcomes your input on these draft specifications. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specifications and provide written comments by May 26, 2006. Written comments should be directed to plumbing@epa.gov. All comments become part of the public record.

On April 28, 2006, EPA plans to hold a meeting on the draft high efficiency toilet specifications with all stakeholders that would like to provide comments in that forum. The meeting will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. EDT in Washington, DC. To register for the meeting, please go to http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/products_program.htm, and fill out the registration information by Friday, April 21, 2006. EPA will provide registration confirmation, as well as any other information needed for the meeting. If you are unable to attend in person, please provide written comments to plumbing@epa.gov.

Following the comment period, EPA will review all comments, and provide a consolidated response. The final recognition criteria will then be finalized, and EPA will begin accepting applications for recognition of qualified high efficiency toilets.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or tanner.stephanie@epa.gov. We look forward to receiving feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation with EPA's new Water Efficiency Program.

Sincerely,



Sheila E. Frace
Director,
Municipal Support Division