



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

OFFICE OF  
WATER

December 18, 2014

Dear Interested Party:

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the WaterSense<sup>®</sup> program, a voluntary partnership program that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and programs. EPA's WaterSense program aims to help consumers and businesses make smart water choices that save money and maintain high environmental standards without compromising performance. Products and programs that have earned the WaterSense label have been independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

EPA is pleased to announce the release of the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Flushometer-Valve Water Closets*, which will add to WaterSense's line of labeled commercial products. EPA estimates that approximately 27 million flushometer-valve water closets are currently being used in the United States, with more than 500,000 new flushometer-valve water closets sold each year. Many of the existing flushometer-valve water closets are older, inefficient units, flushing between 3 and 7 gallons per flush, significantly more than the maximum flush volume allowed by federal standards. Replacing these older, inefficient flushometer-valve water closets, or installing WaterSense labeled models in new construction or major renovation projects, offers a significant opportunity for water savings.

The purpose of this letter is to request your feedback regarding the draft specification for flushometer-valve water closets. EPA will accept written comments and plans to hold a public meeting via a teleconference to discuss stakeholder comments.

**Earning the WaterSense Label for Flushometer-Valve Water Closets**

The attached *WaterSense Draft Specification for Flushometer-Valve Water Closets* provides the proposed criteria that a flushometer-valve and/or water closet fixture must meet in order to earn the WaterSense label. The specification is designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of user satisfaction with water closet performance.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell flushometer-valve water closets are welcome to join the program as WaterSense partners. Following the close of the comment period, EPA will review all comments, and provide a consolidated response. The specification will then be finalized, and products can be submitted for certification and labeling.

## **Providing Input on the Draft Specification**

EPA welcomes your input on the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Flushometer-Valve Water Closets*. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide written comments by February 20, 2015.

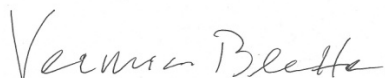
Written comments should be directed to [watersense-products@erg.com](mailto:watersense-products@erg.com). All comments, except data claimed as confidential business information (CBI), become a part of the public record. In the case that comments are CBI, they can be submitted as such through EPA's contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG). Sensitive business information can be claimed confidential under 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. ERG has an EPA-approved security plan in place to protect CBI from unauthorized disclosure. All data submitted as confidential will be handled as such. CBI should not be submitted electronically but can be submitted as a hardcopy document or on a CD, DVD, or flash drive. Data submitted as CBI will not become a part of the public record unless aggregated and masked to conceal the identity of the submitter.

Data claimed as CBI should be submitted to:  
Eastern Research Group, Inc.  
Attn: WaterSense Helpline  
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 350  
Arlington, VA 22201

On January 15, 2014, EPA plans to hold a teleconference to discuss the draft specification with all stakeholders who would like to provide comments in that forum. The meeting will take place from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Eastern. Details regarding meeting registration can be found on the WaterSense website at [www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/FVtoilets\\_draft.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/FVtoilets_draft.html).

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or [tanner.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:tanner.stephanie@epa.gov), or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov). We look forward to receiving your feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation with WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Veronica Blette  
Chief  
WaterSense Branch