



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

OFFICE OF
WATER

February 7, 2013

Dear Interested Party:

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the WaterSense® 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 services. 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 services 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 Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves](#), which will be the first commercial kitchen product eligible for the WaterSense label. Approximately 970,000 pre-rinse spray valves (PRSVs) are currently being used in the United States, with about 200,000 new PRSVs sold each year. Replacing these standard PRSVs with WaterSense labeled models offers a significant opportunity for water and cost savings.

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

Earning the WaterSense Label for Commercial PRSVs

The attached draft specification provides the criteria that a PRSV will need to meet in order to be certified and labeled under the WaterSense program. The specification is designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of user satisfaction with PRSV performance.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell PRSVs 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 Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves*. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide written comments by April 8, 2013.

As outlined in the [WaterSense Draft Specification for Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Valves Supporting Statement](#), EPA is also specifically requesting input on the draft spray force performance criteria and the scope and definition of products included in the specification. EPA welcomes stakeholders to submit performance data to support any written comments related to this or any other requirements. In the case that such data are confidential, it may be submitted as confidential business information (CBI) through EPA's contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG). Sensitive business information may be claimed confidential under 40 CFR Part 2, Subpart B. ERG has an EPA-approved security plan in place to protect confidential business information from unauthorized disclosure. All data submitted as confidential will be handled as such. CBI should not be submitted electronically but may 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.

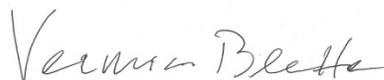
Written comments should be directed to watersense-products@erg.com. All comments, except data claimed as CBI, become a part of the public record.

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

On March 20, 2013, 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 time. Details regarding meeting registration can be found on the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/prsvs.html.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or tanner.stephanie@epa.gov, or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or 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