



A partnership program of the  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

May 17, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

Since the release of the final WaterSense *Tank-Type High-Efficiency Toilet Specification* (Specification) in January 2007, several questions and issues have been raised concerning whether specific products qualify for use of the WaterSense label. One question recently brought to our attention is whether a tank-type single-flush toilet with multiple flush volume settings (e.g., a toilet that could be set to flush at either 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf) or 1.6 gpf) would qualify under the Specification for use of the WaterSense label.

Section 3.1 of the Specification clearly states that for single-flush toilets, "The effective flush volume shall not exceed 1.28 gallons (4.8 liters)." The intent of this requirement is that single-flush toilets with flush volumes of only 1.28 gallons or less qualify for use of the WaterSense label. While it might be possible to manufacture a toilet that can be set to either 1.28 gpf or 1.6 gpf and still meet all of the technical requirements of the Specification (including waste clearance and tank trim adjustability criteria) when tested at the 1.28 gpf setting, this type of toilet does not comply with the intention of the Specification or the spirit of the WaterSense program.

The WaterSense Program's goal is to promote the development and use of high-efficiency, high-performing water using technologies. While WaterSense understands the appeal to manufacturers of producing a single product that can be sold in multiple markets, allowing a product that can be reset in the field to exceed the Program's established water efficiency criteria undermines the WaterSense Program's resource conservation goals and weakens consumer confidence in the WaterSense Label. For this reason, products with adjustable water-use settings that can be identified and activated by a user to override the water-efficiency level established by WaterSense specifications do not comply with the intent of the WaterSense program and would not qualify for use of the WaterSense label.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please contact me at 202-564-2660 or [tanner.stephanie@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:tanner.stephanie@epamail.epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Tanner".

Stephanie Tanner, CEM  
WaterSense Products Lead  
Environmental Protection Agency