



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

OFFICE OF
WATER

January 8, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched WaterSense[®], its 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, services, and programs. EPA's WaterSense program seeks to change the way the American public and businesses think about water efficiency and make decisions regarding water use and water-using products.

Following the successful releases of specifications for certification and labeling of high-efficiency tank-type toilets and residential lavatory faucets, WaterSense is releasing a draft specification for its first commercial plumbing product: high-efficiency flushing urinals. There are more than 12 million urinals currently in use in the United States, with approximately 300,000 new urinals sold each year. Many of the existing 12 million urinals are older, inefficient fixtures that use between 0.5 and 4.0 gallons per flush more than the maximum allowable flush volume under current federal regulations. Replacing these inefficient fixtures with high-efficiency flushing urinals offers the opportunity to achieve significant water use savings.

At this time, EPA is establishing criteria for high-efficiency, high-performing flushing urinals eligible to be labeled under the WaterSense program. Product certification, together with broad education/outreach campaigns and partnerships with key stakeholders, will transform the marketplace and help make water-efficient products the clear and preferred choice among consumers and organizations.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of and ask for your feedback regarding the WaterSense program's draft High-Efficiency Flushing Urinals Specification. EPA will accept written comments and hold a public meeting via a telephone conference call to discuss stakeholder comments. Following the comment period, EPA will make any necessary revisions to the certification criteria, publish the final specification, and allow manufacturers to begin the certification process.

Earning the WaterSense Label for High-Efficiency Flushing Urinals

The attached draft High-Efficiency Flushing Urinal Specification provides the criteria that a flushing urinal 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 urinal performance.

Providing Input on the Draft Specification

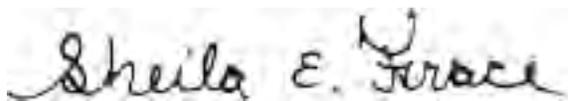
EPA welcomes your input on the draft High-Efficiency Flushing Urinal Specification. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide written comments by March 9, 2009. Written comments should be directed to watersense-urinals@erg.com. All comments become a part of the public record.

On February 5, 2009, EPA plans to hold a telephone conference to discuss comments on the draft High-Efficiency Flushing Urinal Specification with all stakeholders that would like to provide comments in that forum. The meeting will take place from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). To register for the meeting, please go to <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/register.htm>, and submit the registration information by January 22, 2009. At the time of registration, EPA will provide registration confirmation. Prior to the telephone conference, EPA will provide registered participants with a call-in number and password, and any other information needed for the meeting.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell these water-efficient plumbing fixtures are welcome to join the program. 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.

If you have questions about the program, 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 EPA's WaterSense program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila E. Frace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sheila Frace
Director,
Municipal Support Division