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Guidance Type: Test Procedures

Category: Consumer Products

Product: Clothes Dryers

Guidance Version: FINAL

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Q: What final remaining moisture content must be achieved for an automatic termination control dryer test cycle to be considered valid when testing according to 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix D2?

A: The test procedures for residential clothes dryers are found in [10 C.F.R. 430.23\(d\)](#), [10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix D1](#), and [10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix D2](#). Section 3.3.2 in Appendix D2 specifies that for automatic termination control dryers, a “normal” program must be selected for the test cycle. In addition, where the temperature and dryness level settings can be chosen independently of the program, the test procedure specifies that they be set to maximum temperature setting and the “normal” or “medium” dryness level setting, respectively. The clothes dryer is then operated until the completion of the programmed cycle, including the cool down period. The test procedure provides that, if the final moisture content is greater than 2 percent, the test is invalid and that a new run must be conducted using the highest dryness level setting.

DOE received an inquiry requesting clarification on the provision for the final moisture content. Specifically, the interested party questioned whether any second test run using the highest dryness level setting must also result in a final moisture content of 2 percent or less for the test to be considered valid.

For the reasons that follow, DOE interprets the test procedure provision to mean that this 2-percent final moisture content threshold for a valid test should apply to all test cycles run according to section 3.3.2 of Appendix D2, including test runs using the highest dryness level setting.

As noted in the test procedure final rule published on August 14, 2013, interested parties submitted a joint comment presenting test results that demonstrate that a final moisture content of 2 percent using the DOE test cloth is representative of the maximum consumer-accepted final moisture content. 78 FR 49608, 49614. DOE agreed with this conclusion and adopted provisions that specify that a test conducted on the “normal” or “medium” dryness setting is considered valid only if the final moisture content is 2 percent or lower. 78 FR 49608, 49621, 49624.

DOE’s interpretation that the 2-percent final moisture content threshold for a valid test should apply to all test cycles run according to section 3.3.2 of Appendix D2, including test runs using the highest

dryness level setting, is consistent with the requirements of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which provides that test procedures must be “reasonably designed to produce test results” that measure energy use “during a representative average use cycle.” 42 U.S.C. § 6293(b)(3). Based on the information presented during the rulemaking, clothes are dried to a moisture content of 2 percent or lower in the representative average use of a clothes dryer.