

Oregon Department of Energy

NEWS

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APPLIANCE TAX CREDIT STANDARDS RAISED

The production of more energy-efficient appliances has led the Oregon Department of Energy to raise standards for appliances that qualify for the Residential Energy Tax Credit Program.

The Residential Energy Tax Credit is an incentive for Oregon residents to purchase premium efficiency appliances. As the marketplace produces more efficient dishwashers, refrigerators and clothes washers, the Department of Energy raises its standards. A public hearing on the standards was held May 19, 2004 and the change took effect Aug. 2.

Some of the models that were previously eligible for the Residential Energy Tax Credit are ineligible under the new rules.

“We expect many manufacturers to produce additional qualifying appliances,” said Department of Energy Conservation Services Manager Suzanne Dillard. “We will add them to the list as the manufacturers notify us with the data.”

The standards that were changed include:

- Refrigerators-freezers qualifying for an Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credit must have at least 20 percent lower energy consumption than allowed by the July 1, 2001 U.S Department of Energy standards for refrigerators. The previous rules stated refrigerators-freezers had to have at least 15 percent lower energy consumption.
- Dishwashers qualifying for an Oregon Residential Energy Tax Credit must have an energy factor of 0.61 cycles/kWh or higher. The previous rules stated that the energy factor had to be 0.58 cycles/kWh or higher.
- Qualifying dishwashers must now have a maximum water use per cycle, as tested, of 6.5 gallons. The previous rules did not specify water usage for dishwashers. To conserve water and to be consistent with the water usage requirement for tax credit qualifying clothes washers, a water usage factor was added to the requirements for tax credit qualifying dishwashers.

MORE

Check the Department of Energy Web site (www.energy.state.or.us) for the most updated qualifying appliance lists.

Call Deby Davis at 1-800-221-8035 (toll-free) or (503) 378-4040 (Salem) if you have any questions.

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The Oregon Department of Energy provides tax credits, loans, technical assistance and energy information for homes, businesses, manufacturing, farms, ranches, schools and government. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-221-8035 or check the Web site at www.energy.state.or.us.