

# GE Appliances

Please see the attached comments.



**GE APPLIANCES**  
a Haier company

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Via Email (SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov)

Laura Watson  
Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Preliminary Draft Rule Language – Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting

Dear Ms. Watson:

GE Appliances, a Haier company, (GEA) respectfully submits the following comments regarding the Preliminary Draft Rule Language for Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting to the Washington State Department of Ecology (the "Department").

GEA is a leading, US manufacturer of home appliances and equipment. GEA offers a full suite of major appliances across six brands, a suite of small kitchen appliances, a full line of heating and cooling products for residential and commercial markets, and a line of residential water heaters.

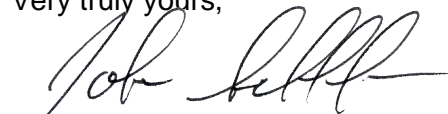
GEA has identified two areas of vagueness within the draft rule where additional clarity will benefit all stakeholders.

- (1) Reporting Requirement for OFRs in Indoor Electric Products: Section 065, "Reporting Requirements" can be read to require reporting for all priority consumer products covered by the regulation. GEA understands, however, that Indoor Electric Products are not intended to have a reporting requirement, only a priority chemical restriction. The Department should, therefore, clarify that no reporting requirement applies to Indoor Electric Products. The Department can do this by adding a statement to Section 065 that the reporting requirements of Section 065 do not apply unless reporting is required in a section regulating a priority product. Alternately, the Department can include an affirmative statement in Section 112(1) that the reporting requirements of Section 065 do not apply to Indoor Electric Products. Either revision will clear up any ambiguity regarding reporting for Indoor Electric Products.
- (2) PPM Limits for OFRs: Section 112(1)(c) sets PPM limits for OFR flame retardants in Indoor Electric Products. The Department should add language clarifying that the PPM limits apply to the product as a whole. PPM limits of 1000 – 1500 for a single component would not allow sufficient flame retardancy for equipment with external

plastic enclosures to comply with UL listing requirements. While the Department has analyzed alternate flame retardants, its analysis is limited in several respects—as inherently acknowledged by the inclusion of the 1000 – 1500 PPM limit incorporated in the draft regulation. While the Department has determined certain examples of end uses of plastic enclosures with alternate flame retardants, it has not done the work to determine that these alternates have the fit and function characteristics necessary for the extraordinarily wide range of electric products using plastic enclosures. Additionally, the Department recognizes that its proposed flame retardant alternatives require fluorinated additives that other states have already scheduled to ban and indeed that these very regulations proposed to ban in alternate uses. These regulations, should therefore, maintain the PPM limits as drafted and clarify that they are for a product taken as a whole.

GEA appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Schlafer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John T. Schlafer