

DOCKETED

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**Rain Bird Corporation Comment Proposed Regulatory Language: Spray
Sprinkler Bodies “ 19-AAER-01**

Please accept Rain Bird Corporation's attached comment.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



June 17, 2019

California Energy Commission

**Rain Bird Corporation Comment
Proposed Regulatory Language: Spray Sprinkler Bodies – 19-AAER-01**

Rain Bird Corporation (Rain Bird), a California corporation based in Azusa, California, is a leading global manufacturer of irrigation products. From its humble beginnings in 1933 when a Glendora, California citrus farmer invented the impact sprinkler in order to more efficiently use his limited supply of irrigation water, Rain Bird has designed and manufactured high efficiency irrigation products sold around the world.

Rain Bird supports California Energy Commission's (CEC) proposed regulatory language mandating pressure regulation devices in spray sprinkler bodies in California, a feature Rain Bird introduced to the industry in spray sprinkler bodies in 1988. Rain Bird agrees with CEC that requiring pressure regulation devices in spray sprinkler bodies will achieve the CEC's goals of saving both energy and water on behalf of Californians while also supporting The Intelligent Use of Water[®], a long-standing Rain Bird philosophy. As a leader in landscape irrigation, Rain Bird stands prepared to meet the proposed regulatory requirements for California.

Rain Bird also acknowledges and appreciates the changes made by CEC in testing and reporting requirements in the current proposed regulatory language from the requirements in the original October 2018 proposed regulatory language. The change to harmonize with the US Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense testing methodology is especially beneficial and appreciated.

In addition to its support, Rain Bird respectfully requests changes to the proposed regulatory language, changes which will ensure it will not confuse consumers or place undue burden on industry. Rain Bird strongly suggests and highly prefers CEC revert back to the January proposed language regarding testing and reporting of results and additionally require reporting only regulation pressure and maximum operation pressure. Perhaps this change would not cause a delay in the regulatory process since we presume it has already been reviewed and vetted by CEC staff.

The California Energy Commission January proposed regulatory language below is indicated by single underline and Rain Bird's recommended revisions to the January version of the CEC proposal are indicated by double underline for addition and ~~double strikethrough~~ for deletions.

Section 1604. Test Methods for Specific Appliances.

... ~~[skipping (a) through (w)]~~

(x) Reserved.

(y) Landscape Irrigation Equipment.

(1) Spray Sprinkler Bodies and Spray Sprinklers.

(A) There is no test method for a spray sprinkler or spray sprinkler body.

...

Section 1605.1. Federal and State Standards for Federally Regulated Appliances.

...~~[skipping (a) through (w)]~~

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(x) Reserved.

(y) Landscape Irrigation Equipment.

See section 1605.3 (y) for water efficiency standards for landscape irrigation equipment.

...[skipping the rest of section 1605.1]

Section 1605.3. State Standards for Non-Federally Regulated Appliances.

...[skipping (a) through (w)]

(x) Reserved.

(y) Landscape Irrigation Equipment.

(1) Spray Sprinkler Bodies and Spray Sprinklers.

(A) A spray sprinkler body manufactured on or after ~~July~~ October 1, 2020, shall be certified to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as conforming to the Agency's WaterSense® Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies, and shall maintain such certification.

~~(B) A spray sprinkler manufactured on or after July 1, 2020, shall contain a spray sprinkler body certified to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as conforming to the Agency's WaterSense® Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies, and shall maintain such certification.~~

Section 1606. Filing by Manufacturers; Listing of Appliances in ~~Database~~ MAEDbS.

(a) Filing of Statements.

...

(3) Testing and Performance Information.

(A) A statement that the appliance has been tested in accordance with all applicable requirements of sections 1603 and 1604 of this Article. If section 1604 of this Article provides more than one test method that may be used, the manufacturer shall identify which method was used.

EXCEPTION 1 to Section 1606 (a)(3)(A) of this Article:

For spray sprinkler bodies, in lieu of the statement required in section 1606(a)(3)(A) of this Article, a statement that the appliance is certified to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as conforming to the Agency's WaterSense® Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies.

~~EXCEPTION 2 to Section 1606 (a)(3)(A) of this Article:~~

~~For spray sprinklers, in lieu of the statement required in section 1606(a)(3)(A) of this Article, a statement that the appliance contains a spray sprinkler body that is certified to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as conforming to the Agency's WaterSense® Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies.~~

...

**Table X
Data Submittal Requirements**

	Appliance	Required Information	Permissible Answers
	All Appliances	* <i>Manufacturer's Name</i>	
		* <i>Brand Name</i>	
		* <i>Model Number</i>	
		<i>Date model to be displayed</i>	
		<i>Regulatory Status</i>	<i>Federally-regulated consumer product, federally-regulated commercial and industrial equipment, non-federally-regulated</i>

{...skipping sections A-W of Table X} ...

	Appliance	Required Information	Permissible Answers
X Y	<u>Reserved Landscape Irrigation Equipment</u>	<u>Landscape Irrigation Equipment Type</u>	<u>Spray sprinkler body, spray sprinkler</u>
		<u>Spray sprinkler body certified to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as conforming to the Agency's WaterSense® Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies</u>	<u>True, false</u>
		<u>Model number of spray sprinkler body contained within the spray sprinkler (spray sprinkler only)</u>	
		<u>Regulation pressure (psi)</u>	
		<u>Maximum operating pressure (psi)</u>	

...

Section 1607 Marking of Appliances.

...[skipping (a) through (b)]

(c) Exceptions to Section 1607(b).

...[skipping (first sentence through (1)]

(2) For lamps, and spray sprinkler bodies, ~~and spray sprinklers,~~ the information required by Section 1607(b) shall be permanently, legibly, and conspicuously displayed on an accessible place on each unit, on the unit's packaging, or, where the unit is contained in a group of several units in a single package, on the packaging of the group.

...[skipping (c)(3)]

Rain Bird believes the requirement to declare WaterSense certification and report only the regulation pressure and maximum operating pressure provides the following consumer and industry benefits:

1. Consumer confusion would be greatly reduced or eliminated regarding the quality of performance of spray sprinkler bodies. For instance, the latest proposed regulatory language requires the minimum outlet pressure to be no less than two-thirds (67%) of the regulation pressure. For a sprinkler spray head regulating outlet water pressure to 30 psi, this results in a minimum outlet pressure of 20 psi. If a manufacturer reports a value of 20 psi, this meets the requirement. However, it is unclear to the consumer whether a result of 30 is better. Since this criteria is a minimum, does that infer the highest number reported is best? Since consumers do not realize all pressures between 20 and 30 psi are somewhat equal, this data may confuse and mislead them. The other two data points Rain Bird recommends to be eliminated from reporting requirements have similar consumer confusion consequences.

The WaterSense program requires third-party testing and verification of spray sprinkler body pressure regulation performance using the criteria in the proposed regulatory language which Rain Bird recommends for elimination. Including it in the proposed regulatory language is redundant if CEC agrees to require WaterSense certification.

The WaterSense program, through expert third party testers, analyzes the data and determines whether or not the tested product meets the WaterSense criteria. WaterSense then authorizes the use of the WaterSense label for products which meet those criteria. Consumers get a simple, clear indication of the performance of the product and are not confused by arcane information that is difficult for them to interpret.

Providing only regulation pressure and maximum operating pressure as Rain Bird recommends provides information easy for consumers to use and understand. Reporting the balance of information in the current proposed regulatory language will confuse and perhaps mislead consumers.

2. The current proposed regulatory language requires initial reporting and maintenance of test data for every stock keeping unit (SKU) to be sold. The testing burden of each SKU to be sold is significantly higher compared to the testing required to qualify for the WaterSense label. The staff time and operating expense required to provide and maintain this amount of data is burdensome to manufacturers, represents a significant increase over the requirements in the January proposed regulatory language and provides little or no consumer benefit.
3. Requiring WaterSense compliance only has the additional industry benefit of setting a precedent for other states which may follow California's leadership in this area. This may tend to harmonize state by state requirements and prevent a national patchwork of individual state requirements. If California sets its own testing/reporting requirements, other states may do the same. Individual state requirements that are all different to some degree will collectively result in an onerous burden on industry. California's leadership in this area is important and influential.

Rain Bird believes that the consumer is well served by reliance on the WaterSense program as proposed in the January proposed regulatory language and reporting of regulation pressure and maximum operating pressure. It also relieves industry of low value, unnecessary burden. For

these reasons, Rain Bird respectfully requests CEC make these changes. Rain Bird hopes this requested change will not result in a delay in the regulatory process.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Wolfarth", with a stylized, cursive script.

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