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**ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS –  
REPRESENTING MANUFACTURERS SINCE 1967**

WASHINGTON, DC (March 2001) – For more than 30 years, the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM), has been representing major and portable appliance manufacturers in setting testing standards for the industry.

Serving as a primary interface with government agencies, consumer and environmental groups and media, AHAM focuses on reducing confusion in the marketplace among retailers and consumers about product performance and characteristics. AHAM also works to establish an objective and repeatable form of performance measurement, produce timely and accurate reports, and to give the marketplace a basis for becoming more hospitable to better-performing products.

AHAM, an independent organization, tests, certifies and monitors home appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and room air cleaners. The association uses independent labs to test products, then offers manufacturers standardized ratings they can use on packaging. This makes comparing products much easier for consumers. AHAM's structure includes major and portable appliance manufacturers and suppliers to the industry.

Certified appliances display an AHAM seal to assure consumers that rated product characteristics are accurate, using standard testing methods.

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The organization began as the American Washing Machine Manufacturer's Association (AWMMA) to educate consumers on the need for and use of clothes washers. Then in the mid-1920s, the manufacturers of other home appliances formed the Consumer Products Section of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

Transforming itself yet again in 1938, the AWMMA became the American Washer and Ironer Manufacturer's Association to reflect the increased consumer acceptance of irons. In 1954, the organization changed again and became the American Home Laundry Manufacturers' Association (AHLMA) and the group's membership grew to include the majority of the manufacturers in the laundry industry. This new association formed a statistics department, launched a national education conference and promotional programs and developed standard test methods for measuring appliance performance characteristics.

Finally in 1967, companies with mutual membership in AHLMA and NEMA's Consumer Products Division merged into a new trade association – the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. AHAM's goal was to "bring together manufacturers with like technical, manufacturing and marketing characteristics and set them apart from other (dissimilar) businesses."

The Chicago-headquartered AHAM added a Washington office in 1976 to more closely monitor federal proposals and represent the view of the appliance industry before regulators and legislators. In 1999, AHAM relocated its headquarters to Washington, DC to gain better proximity to the federal government and other external audiences with interest in the industry.

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