

# **NEW ENERGY LABEL Guidelines for manufacturers**

# Content

| 1.  | The new energy label: why?   | 2  |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.  | First wave of rescaling  | 2  |
| 3.  | Old vs new energy label: main differences  | 3  |
| 3   | 3.1. EPREL database  | 4  |
| 4.  | What should be done?   | 6  |
|     | 1.1 Household refrigerators and freezers, Washing machines and Washer-dryers, Dishwashers,  TVS and Displays |    |
| 4   | 2. Light sources   | 8  |
| 5.  | What else has to be considered?  | 10 |
| 6.  | New labels detailed description  | 11 |
| 6   | 5.1 Refrigerating appliances   | 11 |
| 6   | 5.2 Washing machines and washer-dryers   | 12 |
| 6   | i.3 Dishwasher   | 13 |
| 6   | 6.4 TVs and displays   | 13 |
| 6   | 5.5 Light sources  | 14 |
| App | pendix   | 15 |
| Use | ful links  | 16 |
|     |  |    |

# 1. The new energy label: why?

Starting from 1995, the EU adopted the Energy Label as the instrument to accompany consumers and professional buyers in an informed purchase of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE), guiding them in the selection of energy efficient products. Therefore, the introduction of the Energy Label has been prompting the increasing of supply and demand of energy saving products, while the energy consumption and energy costs of appliances has been considerably reduced

With this premises, Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 aims to promote the uptake of more efficient energy-related products, repealing Directive 2010/30/EU and the first Directive 92/75/EEC.

The currently used scale, A+++/G labelling, has become difficult to understand, losing its effectiveness. The higher classes, with many "+", are too densely populated, and almost no products belong to the "A" class and lower ones as they were banned from the market as a consequence of the Ecodesign requirements. This causes confusion in customers to individuate the most efficient product and makes it difficult for manufacturers to show the most efficient products.

The European Union has therefore revised and optimized the energy label, initially only for 6 product groups, to meet the user's needs. The new label will start to be provided with products starting from the 1st November 2020 (for some specific cases) and will be officially shown by retailers to consumers starting from the 1st March 2021. The implementation of the new energy label will follow different phases, which gradually will include several appliances. These guidelines provide an overview of the most interesting aspects related to the energy label implementation and the focus is on suppliers' tasks and obligations. Suppliers¹ are manufacturers established in the Union, or authorised representatives of a manufacturers who are not established in the Union, or importers, who places a product on the Union market. This document doesn't cover all detailed requirements, for which manufacturers are referred to the relevant EU Regulations cited in the *Appendix* of the present document.

# 2. First wave of rescaling

The introduction of the new label will gradually involve all groups of household and commercial appliances. The first wave of *rescaling* will be implemented in 2021 both in stores and for online sales, for the following 6 product groups:

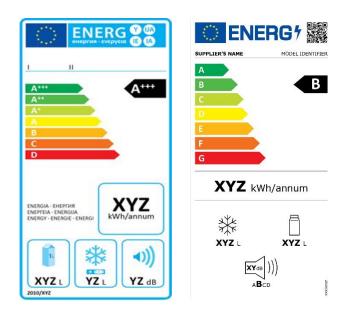
- Household refrigerators and freezers
- Washing machines and washer-dryers
- Dishwashers
- TVs and Displays
- Light Sources
- Refrigerating appliances with direct sales function (commercial appliances).

For the last product group (also known as commercial refrigerators and freezers) a completely new label will be implemented which however will only be relevant for the professional retail sector. This label will not be visible for domestic consumers.

For the group of products not included in the first wave (like, for example, air conditioners, tumble dryers, water heaters, etc.), the new label will be applied as soon as the related EU regulation will be in force (from 2022 onwards).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the definition of supplier please refer to Article 2 (14) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1369

# 3. Old vs new energy label: main differences



Existing label (left side picture) vs new label (right side picture)

• Uniform A-G scale will be gradually implemented and used for all products. This will avoid having higher classes than A also in future. The new energy scale will exclude classes with "+". In the rescaled system the A class will be representative of the most efficient products, arriving gradually to the G class which will include the least efficient appliances. It is highlighted that there is not direct correspondence between old classes and new ones, since testing procedures used to determine energy consumption (and consequently the energy class of a product) are different.

**NOTE:** likely, there will not be any new "A" class product at the time of the label introduction in the stores, in order to leave further space for technologies improvement in the future; the actual most efficient product will correspond approximately to classes "B" or "C", depending on product group.

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:**

Is there a correspondence between the old label and the new label?

A direct correspondence is not available as the formulas, parameters and value intervals that enable the determination of the new scale classification are different from the ones used to calculate the classification in the existing label.

This means that an appliance which now displays a A+++ classification can be reclassified into a C and another appliance can be reclassified into a D, even within the same product category.

Testing methods: measurements and tests, performed to determine the information contained in the
label, are also new. Compliance with the new energy label regulation must be verified through
appropriate and updated physical testing in laboratories. Overall, measurements and calculation
methods have been updated in order to ensure better adaptation to real household use conditions.
Detailed information on the specific testing and measurement methods that have to be applied for each

product family are reported in the corresponding regulation, in *Annex IV* for washing machine/washerdryers, refrigerators, displays and washing machines, and in *Annex II* for lamps.

- QR-Code on the label: in the upper right corner of the label (or in the lower right corner in the case of lamps) a QR-Code is introduced which will provide a direct link to a large number of official (non-commercial) information, which have been inserted by manufacturers into the European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (also known as EPREL or database) supporting transparency and easier market surveillance by national authorities. By law, all energy labelled products shall be registered in the new EU-product database by suppliers.
- **Energy consumption**: more visible indication in the middle section of the label. For fridges annual consumption is reported; for dishwasher, washing machines, washer-dryers, and dishwashers is reported the consumption per 100 cycles; for displays and lamps is reported the consumption for 1000 hours use.
- **Pictograms:** in the bottom of the label they are used to give additional information to the consumers. Some pictograms are the same or similar to the old ones, some others are a completely new introduction.

#### 3.1. EPREL database

As of 1 January 2019, **suppliers** (manufacturers, importers or authorized representatives) **shall register their appliances** which require an energy label, in the European Product Database for Energy Labelling (EPREL), before selling them on the European market.

EPREL is an online database created to provide consumers and dealers with additional information about a specific products and to ensure a more effective compliance control by market surveillance authorities. The supplier (manufacturers/importer) shall make available through the database:

- product registration;
- detailed technical information (product information sheet and some part of the technical documentation);
- energy label information;
- notification when units of a model are no longer places on the market.

The database provides additional product information not included on the label and is divided into two sections for different target groups:

- section for market surveillance: this section is only accessible for market surveillance and European Commission authorities. The data included here is mainly intended to support and facilitate market surveillance activities;
- section for consumers, professional buyers, retailers and other users: this section is public, and it
  is expected to be available from winter 2020 onwards, directly via the EU website and via a QRCode, through smartphone, included in the labels. Until March 2021 product data related to the

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:

# What information does the QR-Code display? Where does it link into?

The QR-Code will display information about a specific appliance model as registered in the EPREL database. The EPREL database has already been updated to include the information as requested in the new label regulation.

To generate the QR-Code, suppliers have to use the following URL: <a href="https://eprel.ec.europa.eu/qr/[Registration number">https://eprel.ec.europa.eu/qr/[Registration number</a>]

old (current) label will be provided. Data for the new label will be accessible from March 2021 onwards.

The public part of the database provides the label data and the products information sheet for viewing and downloading for retailers and for consumers through the QR code, which is linked with the product in the database.

The registration on EPREL is mandatory for the following product groups: Air conditioners, Cooking appliances (domestic ovens and hoods), **Dishwashers** (household), Heaters (space and water heaters), **Lamps**, **Refrigerating appliances** (household), Refrigeration (professional), Solid fuel boilers, **Televisions**, Tumble dryers, Ventilation units (residential), **Washing machines** and **washer dryers** (household).

A product for which changes are made that are relevant for the label or for the product information sheet has to be considered to be a new model. Therefore, suppliers will have to *re-register* their products if falling into one of the product groups addressed by the energy label rescaling. After the re-registration, a new EPREL identifier will be generated.

The re-registration should be available from third quarter 2020 (estimated), including the generation of rescaled energy labels. Before that, EPREL will generate a QR-code by a pre-registration. To generate the QR code suppliers have to use the following URL: <a href="https://eprel.ec.europa.eu/qr/">https://eprel.ec.europa.eu/qr/</a> [Registration number] that currently leads to a white page. With the QR-code on the rescaled label, consumers will be able to access the database and the product information sheet.

It will be possible to generate QR code also separately from the label and for all product groups.

Four formats of labels will be proposed by EPREL: png, jpg, pdf and svg.

## Other important dates.

For products placed on the EU market:

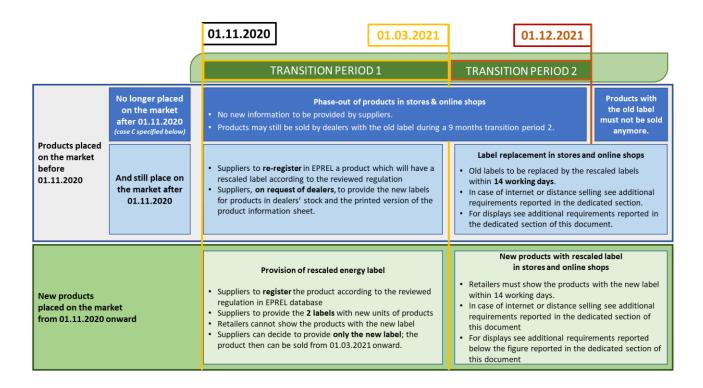
- from 1 January 2019, their EPREL registration shall be completed before placing any product on the market;
- between 1 August 2017 and 31 December 2018, their EPREL registration had to be completed until 30 June 2019;
- before 1 August 2017 and which are no longer marketed after this date, their EPREL registration is on a voluntary basis (at any time).

# 4. What should be done?

This section is devoted to a more detailed explanation of manufacturers' obligation and corresponding timing. To properly understand the following indication, it is important to highlight that the expression *placing/placed on the market*<sup>2</sup> refers to:

- when a manufacturer or an importer supplies a product to a distributor or an end-user for the first time in the European Union market;
- each individual product, not a type of product.

# 4.1 Household refrigerators and freezers, Washing machines and Washer-dryers, Dishwashers, TVs and Displays



# A. Products placed on the market before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 and still placed on the market after the beginning of the transition period:

During a 4 months transition period between 1.11.2020 and 28.2.2021: only the current energy label can be showed to the consumers. Moreover, it is specified that:

- suppliers shall re-register in EPREL a product which has a rescaled label on the basis of the reviewed regulation and new testing procedures (new product information sheet will then be generated);
- suppliers shall make available the new information sheet through EPREL (not in a printed version).
   Retailers can request a printed version of the product information sheet with new units of products to suppliers.
- suppliers, on request by the retailers/dealers, shall provide the new labels for products in the retailers/dealers' stock.
- suppliers shall deliver printed labels and product information sheets to the dealer free of charge, promptly and in any event within five working days upon the dealer's request.

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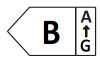
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the definition place on the market please refer to paragraph 2.3 of the Blue Guide.

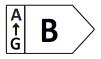
During a 14 working days period between 1.3.2021 and 18.3.2021: old labels shown to consumers have to be replaced with new ones by the retailers. Moreover, it is specified that:

- there are special requirements for displays: the supplier shall either print the label on the packaging or stick a rescaled colour label to the packaging. If a product model at the point of sale is only displayed in the packaging (not taken out of the packaging for exhibition) the dealer must ensure visibility of the label for the consumer (i.e. the side of the packaging with the label must be visible);
- there are special requirements in case of distance or internet selling: an arrow with the energy efficiency
  class of the product (and the range of energy efficiency classes) shall be placed next to the product model
  for any product information provided on the web or distance selling. In the case of distance selling through
  the internet the product information sheet must be provided with a link to the EPREL website or in a nested
  display.









Arrow to be shown next to the product model for any product information provided in visual advertisements, in technical promotional material in distance selling and in telemarketing and on the web.

B. Products placed on the market from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 (for which new testing procedures are applicable):

During a 4 months transition period between 1.11.2020 and 28.2.2021: only the current energy label can be showed to the consumers. Moreover, it is specified that:

- suppliers have to register the product only on the basis of the reviewed regulation in EPREL and must provide the rescaled label to retailers/dealers;
- suppliers must make available the new information sheet through EPREL, instead of through a printed version. The supplier shall deliver product information sheets, to the dealer free of charge, promptly and in any event within five working days upon the dealer's request.
- suppliers must provide the old and new label with new units of products (with the related information sheet) with the new units of products (old and new energy label should be both provided, but the new label will not be showed to consumers until 01.03.2021);
- the existing and the rescaled label require different testing procedures. Therefore, the supplier may choose not to supply the existing label with units of models placed on the market or put into service after 1.11.2020 (if no units belonging to the same model or equivalent models were placed on the market or put into service before 1.11.2020). In this case, the supplier shall notify the dealer to not offer those units for sale before 1.03.2021.

During a 14 working days period between 1.3.2021 and 18.3.2021: old labels have to be replaced with new ones by retailers. Moreover, it is specified that:

- new products provided only with new rescaled label are shown in stores and online shops from 1.3.2021 onwards:
- in case of internet or distance selling see additional requirements as specified above;
- for displays see additional requirements specified above.

C. Products placed on the market already before 1.11.2020 but no longer placed on the market after 1.11.2020, when re-scaled label involves new testing methods; as well as when a supplier has ceased its activities (therefore the retailer is not able to obtain the rescaled label):

During a 4 months transition period between 1.11.2020 and 28.2.2021: only the current energy label can be showed to the consumers.

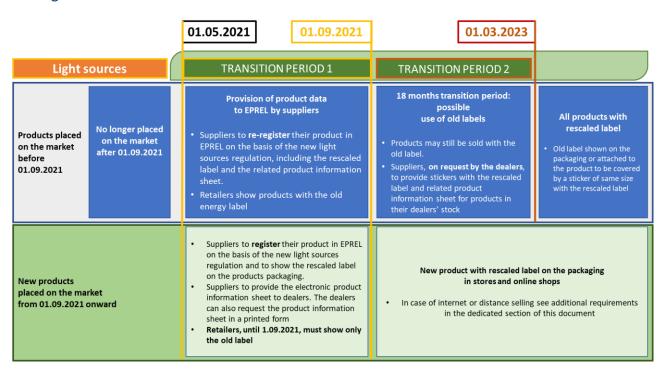
## During 9 months between 1.3.2021 and 30.11.2021.

- products may still be sold with the old label;
- no new information to be provided by suppliers.

#### As of 1.12.2021

• products with the old label must not be sold anymore.

# 4.2. Light sources



# A. New light sources placed on the market after 1. September 2021

#### From 1. 5. 2021 when the product is placed on the market

- suppliers must register their product in EPREL on the basis of the new light sources regulation;
- suppliers must provide the related electronic product information sheet to dealers. The dealers can also
  request the product information sheet in a printed form. The supplier shall deliver printed product
  information sheets to the dealer, free of charge, promptly and in any event within five working days
  upon the dealer's request;
- dealers can only show the old label, until 1.9.2021.

#### From 1.9.2021

- the supplier shall provide each light source in an individual packaging with the **rescaled label printed** in colour or monochrome (the latter if the information on the packaging is printed in monochrome);
- dealers must show the new products with new label on the packaging in stores and online shops.

# B. Light sources already placed on the market before 1st September 2021

#### As of 1.5.2021

• suppliers must re-register their product in EPREL on the basis of the new light sources regulation including the rescaled label and related product information sheet; suppliers shall re-register the new rescaled energy label and the related information sheet of the product.

## As of 1.9.2021

• the manufacturer will provide sticker labels to place over the old label. These labels must be the same size as the old label to cover the entire old label. These sticker labels must be used even when the product was brought to market using design requirements that differ from the one given in the new Energy Labelling Regulation.

# 18 months transition period from 1.9.2021 to 28.2.2023

- the manufacturer will provide sticker labels to place over the old label. These labels must be the same size as the old label to cover the entire old label. These sticker labels must be used even when the product was brought to market using design requirements that differ from the one given in the new Energy Labelling Regulation;
- suppliers, on request by the retailers/dealers, must provide stickers with the rescaled label and related product information sheet for products in retailers' stock.

# As of 1.3.2023

- Only the new label can be showed. Old label shown on the packaging or attached to a product must be covered by a sticker with the rescaled label of same size with the rescaled label.
- New product information sheet must be provided.

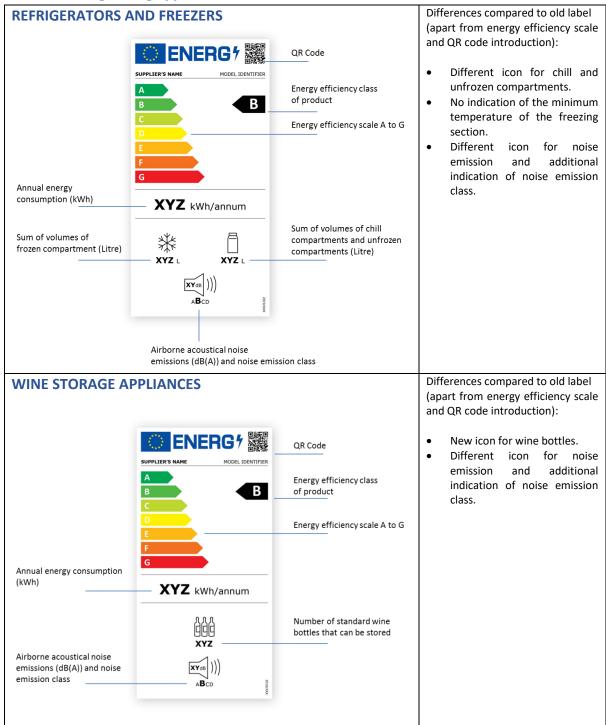
# 5. What else has to be considered?

- In case of **distance or internet selling**: an arrow with the efficiency class of the product (and the range of energy efficiency classes) has to be placed next to the product model for any product information provided on the web. The product information sheet to be provided to the consumer through the web and on paper on specific request of consumer in case of distance selling. The detailed requirements concerning implementation of the label for distance and internet selling are extensive and should be taken from the regulations (see also references below).
- Specific **requirements for displays**: the supplier shall either print the colored label on the packaging or put a sticker with the label on the packaging; if a product model at the point of sale is only displayed in the packaging (i.e. not taken out of the packaging) the dealer must ensure visibility of the label for the consumer (i.e. the side of the packaging with the label must be visible).
- The requirements regarding the concrete placement of the new label are the same as for the current label.
- Concerning household appliances, displays and televisions, the replacement has to be arranged within
  the 14 days period as indicated above. The 14 days are specified as working days only including Monday
  to Friday but not Saturdays and Sundays. The new labels must not be shown in physical stores and online
  shops before 1.3.2021 (and not before 1.09.2021 for lights).
- The requirements concerning timing of the replacement are the same for physical stores and for online shops.
- Any visual advertisement for a specific rescaled product containing its new energy efficiency class, may
  not become public before the application date of the new regulation (1 March for household appliances,
  displays and televisions or 1 September 2021 for lamps). Catalogues can be prepared but not
  disseminated before these dates. The same applies for advertisement on the Internet.
- The dealers need only to display the rescaled label in shops and online from the date the new label starts to apply. No modification of the content of packaging is requested for units in the retailer's stock. However, concerning light sources, the dealer shall replace the existing label by a sticker with the rescaled label of the same size on the packaging or attached to the package, within 18 months after 1 September 2021, i.e. by 28 February 2023. The manufacturer will provide sticker labels to place over the old label. These labels must be the same size as the old label to cover the entire old label.
- Dealers will also be able to download the information from EPREL from the date the new label starts to apply.

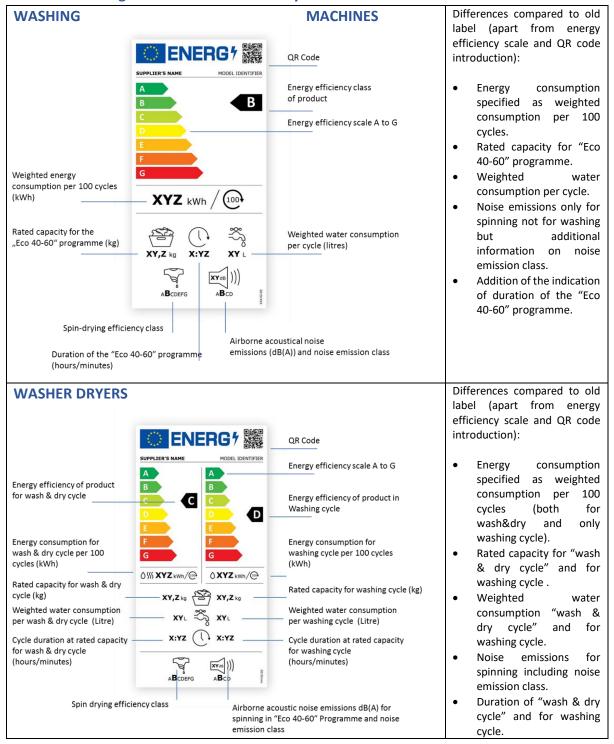
# 6. New labels detailed description

Here follows a specific description of the new label for each product group previously mentioned.

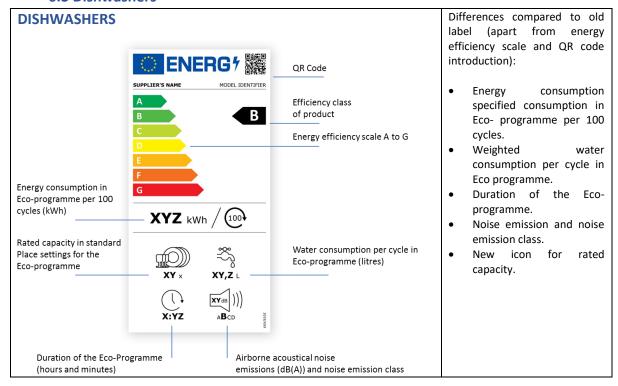
# 6.1 Refrigerating appliances



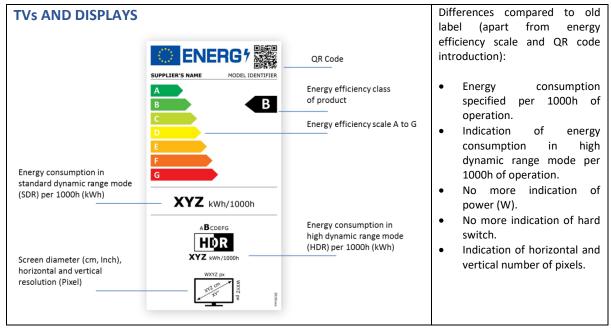
# 6.2 Washing machines and washer-dryers



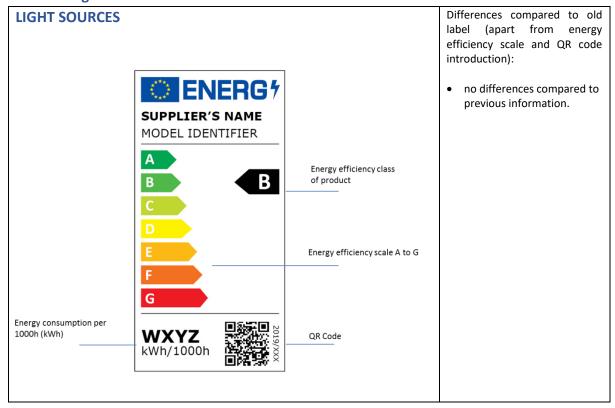
# 6.3 Dishwashers



# 6.4 TVs and displays



# **6.5 Light sources**



# **Appendix**

#### Framework regulation for energy labelling

Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 setting a framework for energy labelling and repealing Directive 2010/30/EU (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 198, 28.7.2017, p. 1–23

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1369/oj

#### The 'Blue Guide'

Commission Notice — The 'Blue Guide' on the implementation of EU products rules 2016 (Text with EEA relevance) C/2016/1958

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/GA/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52016XC0726(02)

#### **Refrigerators and Freezers**

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2016 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of refrigerating appliances and repealing Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1060/2010 (Text with EEA relevance.). C/2019/1806

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1575537791838&uri=CELEX:32019R2016

#### Washing machines and washer-dryers

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2014 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of household washing machines and household washer-dryers and repealing Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1061/2010 and Commission Directive 96/60/EC (Text with EEA relevance.). C/2019/1804

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1575536811417&uri=CELEX:32019R2014

# Dishwashers

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2017 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of household dishwashers and repealing Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1059/2010 (Text with EEA relevance.) C/2019/1807

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1575537989799&uri=CELEX:32019R2017

#### TVs and Electronic Displays

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2013 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of electronic displays and repealing Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1062/2010 (Text with EEA relevance.) C/2019/1796

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2019.315.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2019:315:TOC

## **Light sources**

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2015 of 11 March 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to energy labelling of light sources and repealing Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 874/2012 (Text with EEA relevance.). C/2019/1805

# **Useful links**

**BELT for Market Actors:** 

http://newenergylabelt.eu/

BELT - Boost Energy Label Take up:

https://www.belt-project.eu/

Label2020:

https://advice.label2020.eu/

APPLIA – Home Appliance Europe:

https://www.theenergylabel.eu/ https://www.applia-europe.eu/

LightingEurope – The voice of the lighting industry:

https://www.lightingeurope.org/

Energy Labelling guidelines for lighting are freely downloadable:

https://europeanlightingpriorities.eu/guidelines.php

EPREL database – European Commission information:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/standards-tools-and-labels/products-labelling-rules-and-requirements/energy-label-and-ecodesign/product-database en

New energy label explained – European Commission information:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/MEMO 19 1596

# Energy label template:

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-efficiency/energy-label-and-ecodesign/energy-label-templates en



BELT – Boost Energy Label Take up - is a project funded by EU Horizon 2020 which aims to promote the uptake of more efficient energy-related products. BELT has the objective to facilitate the transition period informing and supporting all stakeholders and to reduce to a minimum error at all levels of the value chain from manufacturer to consumer.

Furthermore BELT aims to promote the new label on two key levels: primarily raising awareness and informing consumers (citizens but also public and business procurement staff) thus allowing them to make better and more informed choices; and secondly helping manufacturers,

distributors and retailers to adapt their practices and use the rescaled labels to push innovation in designing energy efficiency products. BELT will create targeted communication campaigns for all stakeholders, it will organise workshops and events and it will develop training activities.

The project is coordinated by the ALTROCONSUMO and includes 11 organisations from 7 EU Member States. For further information you may contact ERION: <a href="mailto:projecti@erion.it">projecti@erion.it</a>



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