Energy waste in standby to be further cut

From simple to networked standby

The EU Ecodesign regulation to reduce standby losses is soon to be amended in order to cover booming networked products and coffee machines. This horizontal and simple regulation has proven its worth since 2008 to oblige manufacturers of a broad range of household and office products to cut energy waste. As an illustration, the average standby consumption of 166 models of TVs and monitors currently displayed on Topten Europe is below 0.3 Watt.

Products that need to maintain a constant connection to a network were exempted from requirements. The planned amendment to cover these networked modes is essential. It will ensure that networked products also go automatically in a standby state with limited power use. However, when compared to some of the best available models in different categories, the levels appear not sufficiently ambitious:

Product group	Desktop PC	Laptop	Internet gateway	Set top box	Smart phone	Proposed max. levels by the EU
Best performers *requiring low network availability*	< 1.5 W	< 1 W	< 2 W	< 2.5 W		**6 W** by 2015 **3 W** by 2017
Best performers requiring *high network availability*			6.3 W	3.2 W	< 1 W	**12 W** by 2015 **8 W** by 2017

Data from the 2011 Ecodesign preparatory study - Lot 26

Conclusion: a simple and clear horizontal approach with increased ambition is key

- **Horizontal & simple:** It is relevant to cover networked standby with horizontal requirements as simple and broad as the previous ones for simple standby.
- **Clear:** Exemptions should remain strictly limited, and distinctions between levels of 'network availability' should be kept very clear. The current EU proposal has a fair approach, but risks of potential loopholes should be carefully investigated.
- **Systematic:** Power management features should be obligatory on all products, as well as compatible and active with all existing communication protocols in all configurations.
- **More ambitious power caps:** The proposed power caps are not sufficiently stringent and could be reduced by a half. Otherwise, the potential of 40 TWh/year of savings in the EU may not be grasped. These caps should also apply to 'quick start' modes.
- **Additional tier for simple standby and off modes:** There is evidence that a new tier could also be considered for simple standby and off modes at the level of 0.3 W. According to own calculations, this could achieve 5 to 6 TWh/year of additional savings.

More information

- Most efficient products of Europe: www.topten.eu
- Topten policy recommendations: www.topten.eu/policy-recommendations-standby.html
- Draft Ecodesign regulation on networked standby from 29 November 2012: http://www.eup-network.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Networked_Standby___coffee_machines_draft_regulation_ISC_29112012.pdf
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