

Convincing proposal for revised Energy Label framework

One month ago the European Commission has published its proposal for a revised Energy Label framework regulation. The document suggests very promising changes to the current out-dated Label with only A+ to A+++ classes on the market for many product categories.

The highlights of the proposal are:

Back to the successful original: A to G

The original A to G scale has shown to be best understood by consumers in several studies. Restoring the scale and deleting classes that have been banned by Ecodesign requirements will make it easier for consumers to identify the most efficient products.

Regular rescales with empty classes A and B

When a majority of models is in the two top classes, the scale will be shifted and products reclassified. Classes A and B will be designed to be empty at the introduction of rescaled Labels, to remain with A to G and keep the market moving.

Product registration with public database

As in most other regions, also EU suppliers will register the products they put on the market. The products database will provide an overview on models and their efficiency, thus providing market information for policy decisions, facilitating market surveillance, and allowing for consumer information tools. It is key that the database is publicly accessible.



Improvement needed: absolute energy consumption

Absolute energy consumption is what finally matters, but should be considered better in the proposal: Consumption should have to be declared on the Labels, and products 'efficiency' definition should favour low energy-consuming models.

More information

- Commission proposal for revised energy label framework: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_EN_ACT_part1_v6.pdf
- Topten comments in more detail: www.topten.eu/uploads/File/Topten-comments-Label-revision.pdf
- Coolproducts Blog: <http://www.coolproducts.eu/blog/reform-begins>
- Topten discussion paper, Nov 2014: product registration: www.topten.eu/uploads/File/Topten-discussion-paper-product-registration-database_Nov_14.pdf
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