

International market surveillance supports efficiency and quality of products – latest results from a concerted EU initiative on market surveillance for LED lamps, boilers and printers

Press release

28 June 2017

The EEPLIANT project, organised between April 2015 – June 2017, was designed to help deliver the intended economic and environment benefits of the Energy Labelling and Ecodesign Directives by increasing the rates of product compliance.

The EEPLIANT project team, which included twelve Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) and one national agency from across the EU, has organised coordinated **monitoring, verification** and **enforcement** activities, including:

- **LED lamps:** document inspection and full-scale testing of LED lamps;
- **Imaging equipment:** product testing of the imaging equipment covered by the industry's Voluntary Agreement
- **Space heaters and combination heaters:** document inspection and product testing of space and combination heaters under 400 kW.

Note

The testing results shown below are based on products that were sampled from the markets in the participating countries by experienced market surveillance inspectors, identifying non-compliant products. As in any routine market surveillance activity, the results represent the targeted efforts that authorities undertake to find non-compliant products. They do not give a statistically valid picture of the overall market situation.

LEDs

134 LED lamp models were inspected in total. Lamps were selected from the various major sales channels including electronic stores, super markets, DIY stores and eshops. The selection of lamp models followed a “risk based” approach with the goal to try to identify the products with a higher likelihood of being non-compliant.

Full testing covering all essential energy-, performance- and quality- requirements specified in the legislation was conducted for 86 lamp models.

The most problems relevant for consumers and professional buyers were encountered for quality and performance requirements like brightness (luminous flux) and lifetime (lamp survival factor) as well as concerning product information on the lamp packaging.

In contrast, problems concerning energy consumption and energy efficiency declaration were rather small with only a few products showing lower efficiency than declared by manufacturers.

The market surveillance authorities have taken appropriate enforcement measures to make sure that the various problems discovered are solved. These measures included correction or amendment of documents or packaging information (27%), voluntary sales stop or sales ban for importers/manufacturers (43%), withdrawal from market (27%), or a product recall (2%).

Printers

EEPLIANT was also testing a number of printers and multi-functional devices (MFDs) to check compliance with the requirements laid down in the Industry Voluntary Agreement (VA - EuroVAprint ASBL), endorsed by the European Commission, as an alternative to formal mandatory Ecodesign measures on imaging equipment.

The VA includes a wide range of environmental requirements for imaging equipment. For energy in use, it requires that targeted percentages of manufacturers' products are compliant with the requirements in the ENERGY STAR specification for imaging equipment (v2.0).

The project actions included full scale testing of 40 models, and discussions with the manufacturers on results observed. Results show a potential non-compliance rate of some 10% (3 of 30) on the models tested.

Heaters

The compliance verification included document inspections and laboratory testing of ten small boilers, seven heat pumps, and with two large gas boilers (70 – 400 kW) tested in-situ.

The authorities found errors or omissions in the technical documentation for 4 out of 10 electrical heaters and 14 out of 19 small gas boilers. In most cases, these were corrected upon request from the market surveillance authorities, leaving only a few cases open.

The laboratory tests showed that all 10 boilers complied with the minimum requirements laid down in the Ecodesign directive, but 5 out of the 10 had errors in the energy label or the product fiche. The manufacturers have been instructed to change these.

Likewise, the authorities found errors or omissions in the technical documentation for 15 of 19 heat pumps. Seven heat pumps were tested at an accredited laboratory. The tests showed that all 7 heat pumps complied with the minimum requirements from the Ecodesign directive, but errors were found in the energy label or the product fiche for 4 of the 7 heat pumps had errors.

Both of the two large gas boilers tested in-situ were found compliant.

Best practice

The EEPLIANT project has also created **MSA guidelines and an online training programme** and made it available to all other relevant authorities throughout the EU. This ensures that all authorities can benefit from the knowledge accumulated and the lessons learned captured within this EU-level collaboration.

EEPLIANT continues! Given the continuous need to ensure products placed on the market meet the energy efficiency requirements, market surveillance authorities continue their cooperation within the EEPLIANT platform. An EEPLIANT2 project, coordinated by PROSAFE, is in the process to start in September this year.

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<http://www.eepliant.eu>

Ioana Zlotila, Deputy Director

PROSAFE Office

Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 41B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 8080 996

www.prosafe.org

E-mail: info@prosafe.org

Background information

This information is issued by PROSAFE and the market surveillance authorities representing 12 EU Member States in the EEPLIANT 2014 Action.

The Action is coordinated by PROSAFE (Product Safety Forum of Europe), a non-profit organisation that brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe and across the world. Visit www.prosafe.org to learn more. On this website, you will also find more information about the other Joint Actions coordinated by PROSAFE.

Disclaimer

This press release arises from the Action EEPLIANT 2014, which receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 649894.

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