

EEPLIANT 2 : Newsletter no.2

Action on Market Surveillance of EU Energy Label and Minimum Efficiency Requirements

[EEPLIANT2](#) is a project funded by the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. Under the coordination of [PROSAFE](#), seventeen European Union (EU) Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) and one National Agency cooperate to ensure that non-compliant products are identified and withdrawn from the EU single market. Testing and document inspections targeting three product sectors, (i) **household and professional refrigerating appliances**, and (ii) **network standby** will be performed in order to achieve the expected impacts, particularly to increase the compliance rates with the respective energy efficiency requirements.

EEPLIANT2 team works to achieve its goals by:

- Implementing systems that coordinate the monitoring, verification and enforcement of ecodesign and energy labelling requirements across the European Single Market;
- Increasing the adoption of best practice amongst Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs);
- Design, carry out and evaluate coordinated market surveillance actions across three different product sectors
- Delivering a higher level of surveillance activities that go beyond testing and will target products that represent the highest energy saving potential.
- Cooperation with other non-participating MSAs across the EEA and working together with an Advisory Board comprising of business, consumer and environmental NGOs to draw on their knowledge and experience and to communicate through them with all stakeholders about the progress and results of the project.



Household Refrigerating Appliances and Professional Refrigeration

Organising on-line labelling market surveillance

Seventeen participating MSAs and agencies from **Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden** are currently verifying the availability and display of energy labels and product fiche of household refrigerators in around **ten e-shops** each.

Document Inspection

A coordinated sampling plan for organising the inspection of technical documentation has been put in place. Guidelines and data assessment tools have been developed and shared by the MSAs to inspect the documentation and assess compliance with relevant regulatory requirements in the most efficient and effective way.

Over 75 sets of documentation for professional cabinets have been requested from suppliers across six Member States (Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden). Most of those have now been assessed with mixed

results across suppliers and different aspects of required information missing in many cases. Regarding the domestic cold appliances, **between ten to twenty** appliance inspections per each Authority will be completed over the next months.

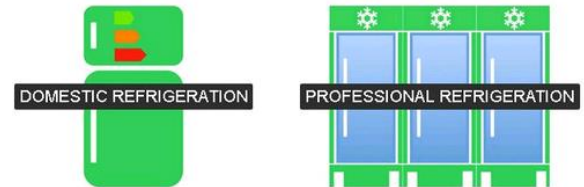
Coordinated compliance testing programme

The testing **laboratories** have been selected following a call for tender for both domestic and professional refrigerators and MSAs are currently in the process of selecting individual models to be tested.

First product tests are planned to start in November 2018. By working closely with the test lab experts on review of the test standards, lab procedures and techniques, the project consortium has developed protocols to ensure consistent and comparable test results. Manufacturers and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation ([CENELEC](#)) Working Group were also [consulted](#) on the protocols.

Based on the results of documentation inspection and other market intelligence, **27 professional cabinets** have been selected for the first round of testing during November 2018.

Regarding the household cold appliances, **around 60 product tests** are anticipated, four per country on average, with the final number of tests to be confirmed later in 2019 depending on the number of suspected non-compliances identified.



Circumvention: identification of defeat devices and “work-rounds”

As a supplement to product testing, the selected laboratories will be working closely with the MSAs to undertake additional testing beyond that specified in the [regulations](#) and the harmonised test standards. This will include additional procedures to screen for odd behaviour of products under tests and check-testing to monitor possible existence of “cheat-ware” controls or other means to achieve non-representative results. Identification of “loopholes” in the test standards and regulations that could be exploited to circumvent requirements or artificially inflate the declared performance will also be carried out.

Networked Standby

Document Inspection

MSAs partners from **Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Slovenia, Sweden** are currently reviewing the technical documentation of selected models, agreeing by consensus on the type of products to be inspected.

The key product categories reviewed include:

- Complex set top boxes
- Routers/Modems
- Coffee machine
- Projectors
- Game consoles
- Blu-Ray Players/Recorders
- Cooking: Microwave ovens
- Cooking: Electric ovens
- Laptops
- Thin clients
- Workstations



The MSAs are assessing the compliance of individual models with the relevant documentation requirements. In total, technical documentation of some 150 models will be reviewed. The inspection results will be added to the project database and made available to all relevant MSAs.

Coordinated compliance testing programme

The testing programme - expecting some 30 models to be tested - and procedures to be developed by the participating MSAs will be soon initiated. The test programme will be organised in accredited test laboratories selected following a public tender - one laboratory already being selected and a second one being searched for in a tender soon to be announced - in accordance with the requirements of the implementing regulations for both networked standby, 801/2013 and standby and off-mode 1275/2008 and, where applicable for the external power supplies 278/2009.

As for the other product categories, results contained in the laboratory test reports will be added into the relevant parts of the project database and disseminated to the non-participating MSAs via ICSMS.

Circumvention: Identification of potential defeat devices and “work-rounds”

The expert test laboratories will be requested to undertake a supplementary investigation going beyond that specified in the regulations and the related test standards. For products with network connectivity, the focus will be on the potential that product performance could be modified remotely by manufacturer after installation, and thus alter the energy efficiency of the product.

Good practices and Data storage

The goal of the project also is to enable the authorities to gain best practice and to build their capacities by consolidating and reinforcing Good Practices developed and implemented in the earlier EEPLIANT project. This enables the project to assist all market surveillance authorities to efficiently work together through using common methods, protocols and checklists.

In addition, at present, the final version of the software (“App”) originally developed within the [MSTyr15](#) project on energy labels of car passenger tyres coordinated by PROSAFE, is being elaborated. The purpose of the software application is to allow the authorities to collect and share data on their inspection activities, related to:

- Inspections of technical documentation;
- Product testing;
- Monitoring of label display in physical shops;
- Monitoring of label display in electronic shops.

All inspection and test results will be shared with both the participating and non-participating MSAs in EU/EEA, thus enabling them to take enforcement actions based on tests performed by a different MSA. This prevents occurring of double costs of testing the same product model by two MSAs, which could otherwise take place.

Data entered by the MSAs will be stored in a format that is compatible with the [ICSMS](#) requirements and standards to enable an easy transfer of data to the EU’s ICSMS database at a later stage.



Best Practice Guidelines - benchmarking, inspiring and updating market surveillance authorities' procedures

Product sector toolboxes - compilation of tools, templates, reference to standards, etc., useful in inspections of a product in particular sector

Data collection and storage - online platform for data entry and storage of the results of inspections, tests, and enforcement actions carried out by the Member States within the project.



The screenshot shows three side-by-side panels of the PROSAFE software interface. Each panel has a title bar with the PROSAFE logo and navigation icons. The first panel is titled 'Visual Inspection' and has a 'Print Close' button. The second panel is titled 'Document Review' and has a 'Print Close' button. The third panel is titled 'Testing Samples' and has a 'Print Close' button. Each panel contains a list of items with checkboxes and a 'CURRENTLY BEING INSPECTED' status indicator.

Dissemination and Communication activities

Once the results of testing are available, cases of non-compliance will be discussed, creating a harmonised approach for enforcement activities in the different Member States across all of the product types under review. Results will be added to the project database and sent to all MSAs across the EU via ICSMS, so that models found to be non-compliant and compliant will be known to all Member States and relevant authorities.

Each MSA will also organise a national event in their country targeting manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, professional associations, consumers and other authorities to ensure that the project activities and results are communicated to all stakeholders. **Bulgaria** organised one event in October 2017 focussing on improvement of the quality of life and sustainable development, through innovations and energy efficiency of household electrical appliances. The other MSAs are planning to carry out this task throughout the project.

EEPLIANT2 is also being presented at EU conferences targeting the professional stakeholders. Up until now, **three conference** presentations were held: [HOST 2017](#) in Italy, Energy Labelling ADCO in Spain in 2017 and [EUSEW18](#) in Belgium. Furthermore, the project will be promoted at the Going Green – [CARE INNOVATION 2018](#) conference on 29 November 2018 in Austria.



The project will **continue** until early 2020 and its general expected **results** are:

- Adoption of best practices on how to conduct market surveillance most effectively.
- Greater compliance due to increased market surveillance of products with the Implementing Measures of the Energy Labelling Regulation and Ecodesign Directive.
- Increased awareness of legal requirements and market surveillance by industry and amongst users.
- Market surveillance being undertaken in a more cost effective and consistent manner with an overall greater impact in the product sectors investigated.

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Background information

This information is issued by [PROSAFE](#) and the market surveillance authorities representing 17 EU Member States in the EEPLIANT2 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 newsletter arises from the Action EEPLIANT2, which receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 752591. The content of this newsletter represents the views of the author and it is his sole responsibility; it can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the *Executive Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises (EASME)* or any other body of the European Union. *EASME* does not accept responsibility for any use that may be made of the information it contains.