

EEPLIANT 2: Newsletter no.3

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

EEPLIANT2 is a concerted action funded by the European Union (EU) under the Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. The project is a unique undertaking that addresses the challenge of building a common approach within 16 EU Member States for the Energy Efficiency and Ecodesign market surveillance.

The great added value of EEPLIANT2 comes from, on one hand, the common inspection procedures and shared sampling and testing programme, and, on the other hand, the harmonisation of the evaluation of results and enforcement actions taken by the seventeen market surveillance authorities.

The EEPLIANT inspection and enforcement activities target three product sectors: *household refrigerating appliances*, *professional refrigerating cabinets* and *network standby* with the goal to ensure that non-compliant products are identified and withdrawn from the EU Single Market. The project is coordinated by PROSAFE, a non-profit NGO based in Brussels.

Photos: EEPLIANT2 project meeting



Organising on-line labelling market surveillance

Authorities and agencies from Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden are verifying the proper display of energy labels and the product fiche of *household refrigerators* in around ten e-shops each – over 50 online shops have been already reviewed (home page, list page, products' detail page, basket page); shops failing to provide the required information have been notified by the respective authorities.

Document Inspection

A coordinated sampling plan for organising the inspection of technical documentation has been followed. The guidelines and data assessment tools that were developed under EEPLIANT2 have proved to make inspections more effective, accurate and easier to assess compliance with the regulatory requirements.

Over 75 sets of documentation for *professional refrigeration* cabinets have been requested from suppliers across six Member States: Austria, Denmark, Malta, Germany, Portugal and Sweden. Almost all have now been assessed with mixed results across suppliers and different information missing in many cases. Next step is to review results for common failure points in order to prepare guidance to help suppliers comply better in future. A similar procedure is being applied also for the document inspection of *the household cold appliances*,

with between ten to twenty inspections per participating Authority planned over the next months.



For the **networked standby**, MSAs from **Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Slovenia and Sweden** are currently assessing the compliance of individual models with the relevant documentation requirements. In total, technical documentation of some 50 models will be reviewed. **The key product categories are:**

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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ Complex set top boxes | ■ Game consoles | ■ Exercise equipment |
| ■ Routers/Modems | ■ Blu-Ray Players/Recorders | ■ Robotic vacuum cleaners |
| ■ Coffee machine | ■ Cooking: Microwave ovens | ■ Laptops |
| ■ Projectors | | |



Coordinated compliance testing programme

In the current round, **25 professional** and **42 household refrigeration appliances** are being tested against the EU harmonised standards and regulations. The selection of tested products reflects the market share of different product types (freezing/chilling, vertical/horizontal, heavy duty/normal duty, sizes and prices etc.). Suppliers are being notified of the results by the relevant national MSA. Enforcement activities are ongoing or already completed.

Photo: A professional cabinet under test, showing the thermal packs used to load the appliance and the automated arm, which opens and closes the door in the specific pattern required in the standard EN16825



The testing programme for **networked standby** has been initiated and is based on procedures developed by the participating MSAs. The testing is expected to be carried out on 50 models and will be conducted in an accredited test laboratory selected following an EU-wide public tender, 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.

Household & Professional Refrigeration

- 13 Member States involved;
- 50 online shops inspected for labels;
- 75 sets of documents inspected;
- 24 Professional appliances tested;
- 42 Household appliances tested.

Networked Standby

- 7 Member States involved;
- 10 product categories reviewed;
- 50 models assessed on the technical documentation;
- 50 models to be tested.

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

Laboratories are also working closely with the MSAs to screen for odd behaviour of products under tests and to monitor possible existence of “cheat-ware” controls or other means to achieve non-representative results. Although MSAs try to identify “loopholes” in the test standards and regulations that could be exploited to circumvent requirements, the new energy labelling regulations provide much more clarity on specific prohibitions regarding circumvention and make it easier for MSAs to pursue and prosecute any cases found.

For **products with network connectivity** the focus will be on the probability that the product performance could be modified remotely by manufacturers after installation, and thus alter the energy efficiency of the product. Investigations will also identify how the “inappropriate for the intended use” clause may be used to circumvent the requirements of the Network Standby Regulation.

Towards achieving impacts



Once the test results are available, the participating MSAs will discuss the cases of non-compliance and create a harmonised approach for enforcement actions.

All 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 will be widely known to all Member States.

Furthermore, each MSA will organise a national event targeting manufacturers, suppliers, dealers, professional associations, consumers and other authorities to ensure that the project activities and results are communicated to all key stakeholders.

Up until now, EEPLIANT2 is being presented at **four EU conferences**: **HOST** 2017 in Italy (photo above), energy labelling ADCO in Spain in 2017, **EUSEW18** in Belgium and Going Green – CARE INNOVATION 2018 conference in November 2018 in Austria. In addition, best practices common to the EEPLIANT programmes have been presented on 28 March 2019 at the **European Lighting Summit** (photo below).

In June 2019, a joint presentation of three market surveillance projects – EEPLIANT2, ANTICSS and INTAS – is planned within the **EUSEW2019** – EU Sustainable Energy Week 2019 in Brussels. Results and guidance for suppliers will be also promoted at the **HOST 2019** exhibition to be held in Milan in October 2019.



The project will **continue** until early 2020 and its overall **results** are expected to be:

- Adoption of best practices on market surveillance;
- Greater compliance of products placed on the market for the benefit of the EU consumer;
- Increased awareness of legal requirements and market surveillance by industry and amongst users;
- Increased cost efficiency and EU added value of market surveillance activities, with a transformational character for the entire EU Single Market.

This project builds upon the work of EEPLIANT2014 that had verified compliance and measured the energy consumption of LED lamps, heaters and printers. The final report from EEPLIANT2014 can be found [here](#).

Furthermore, the EEPLIANT programme is set to continue with the new concerted market surveillance action on EU product efficiency legislation (**EEPLIANT3**), starting in **June 2019** and focussing on a wide array of product groups from lighting to heaters and tumble driers.



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Background information: This information is issued by **PROSAFE** and the MSAs representing 17 EU Member States in the EEPLIANT2 Action. PROSAFE brings together market surveillance officers from all over Europe.

Disclaimer:

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