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RECAST OF EU ENERGY LABELLING DIRECTIVE EXTENDS TO NEW INDUSTRIES, PRODUCT TYPES

In force since June 19th 2010, the new European Energy Labelling Directive 2010/30/EU introduces product labelling requirements for the commercial and industrial sectors, in addition to those already existing for household appliances.

The new requirements, determined by the European Commission and the EC Council, extend to all energy related products in each sector. This includes not just those products that use energy directly, but also products that have "a significant direct or indirect impact on energy consumption during use".

I. NEW LABELLING REQUIREMENTS

The new energy labelling requirements introduced by the directive have been established after a year's consultation with stakeholders. These requirements retain the seven existing energy classes, A to G, used on existing labels. In addition to these seven classes, provision has also been made for the introduction of energy classes A+, A++ and A+++ . These classes each indicate progressively better standards of energy

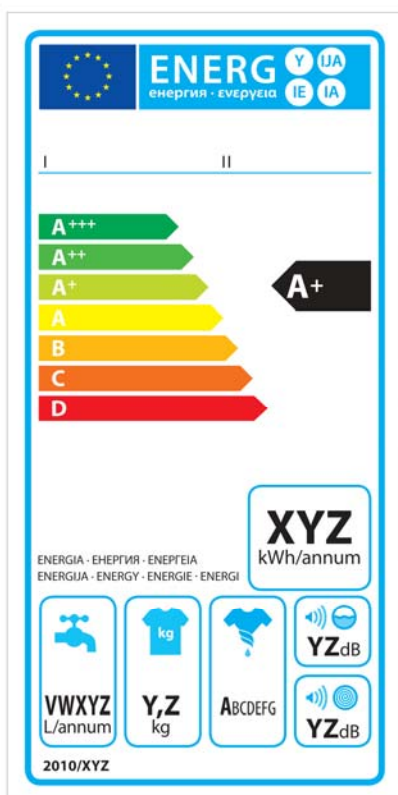


performance above class A. The new classes provide scope for the existing labelling system to reflect technologically driven improvements in energy efficiency.

Despite the provision for introduction of the A+, A++ and A+++ classes, the seven-tier structure of the existing product labelling system would be preserved. The colour coding of these classes would remain the same, with red denoting the least efficient class and dark green the most efficient.

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To keep the number of tiers to just seven, introduction of new classes above A would be accompanied by the removal of existing bottom tier classes, from G upward. This means that introduction of classes A+, A++ and A+++ would see the product labelling classes extend from D through to A+++ , with classes E, F and G being made redundant.



II. WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE TYPES OF PRODUCTS TO BE INCLUDED

The exact definition of the types of products to be included within the new labelling framework will be determined by a Commission working group. These definitions will be published by the European Commission as a list of delegated acts for each product category. In addition to defining the types of products to be included, the delegated acts will i) set out requirements for labelling of those products, ii) set out requirements for energy consumption information cards (fiche) to be provided with all product related brochures and literature, and iii) set out requirements for technical documentation to be kept by manufacturers, sufficient to ensure accuracy of product labels.

The list of delegated acts will work in tandem with the Ecodesign regulations found in Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC. These regulations cover the minimum energy efficiency requirements for EU accredited products. Reflecting the close relationship between the two directives, the delegated acts may also be published in the Working Plan of the Ecodesign Directive.

III. ENFORCEMENT DATES AND PROJECTED ENERGY SAVINGS

The new product labelling directive updates the former directive, 92/75/EEC, and is intended to result in energy savings of up to 1100 PJ annually by 2020. This is equivalent to 80Mt of CO₂ emissions. It is intended that the new directive will further assist consumers to buy environmentally sound products. Even though the new directive came into force on June 19th 2010, it should be noted that some points in Article 5, Responsibilities of Suppliers, will not come in to force until July 31st 2011.

The new directive accompanies an updated directive on the Energy Performance of buildings, and complements other eco-labelling regulations, including the American Energy Star regulation.

The full text of 2010/30/EU can be found [here](#).

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