The Project is funded by the European Union

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EEPLIANT 2

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

Newsletter

EEPLIANT2: Project introduction

*The EEPLIANT2 Action was launched in September 2017 with the key objective to help deliver the intended economic and environment benefits of the **EU Energy Labelling and Ecodesign** Directives by increasing the rates of compliance with their energy efficiency requirements.*
This will be achieved through the **joint monitoring, verification and enforcement activities** of 17 Market Surveillance Authorities and a national energy agency. The action will have a transnational impact across the EU Single Market.
The project is being coordinated by PROSAFE and funded by the European Union under the Horizon 2020 framework. The following countries are taking part in the project: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, and Sweden.
EEPLIANT2 has been designed not only to assist authorities in verifying energy consumption of hundreds of specific products found on the EU market, but also to facilitate the cooperation with other stakeholders, such as industry associations, in achieving higher level of awareness and higher rates of overall product compliance with the EU legislation requirements.
Advantages of the European-level cooperation also include the adoption of common best practices, greater compliance on the EU market, increased awareness of market surveillance at the side of industry and amongst users, as well as a more cost effective and consistent market surveillance practices with overall greater impact on the product sectors investigated.
This project builds upon the work of EEPLIANT2014 that had measured the energy consumption of LED lamps, heaters and printers and verified their compliance against the energy efficiency related requirements. The final report from EEPLIANT2014 can be found here.

Main EEPLIANT2 activities:

Between 9/2017 and 2/2020, the project participants will review and test energy performance of **household refrigeration appliances, professional refrigeration** products ('Professional refrigeration' refers to the refrigerated and frozen storage cabinets used in professional kitchens of restaurants, hotels, schools, staff canteens, etc.), and the energy consumption resulting from appliances on **networked standby**. Products will be sampled from the market, mainly following a risk-based approach. In case of any noncompliance found, the market surveillance authorities will take appropriate enforcement action in their own markets.

Good practices

The goal is to consolidate and reinforce Good Practices developed and implemented in the earlier EEPLIANT project to assist all market surveillance authorities to work together through using common methods, protocols and checklists.
To do this, the project team develops its toolkits with practical "how to do it" guidance, protocols, checklists, etc., usable for the product-specific project activities. The intention is to collect such information and store it in a knowledge base that allows other market surveillance authorities to easily retrieve different examples of how certain tasks are done in different Member States, and thereby get inspiration for increasing the effectiveness of their own work.

Data storage

This task aims to update and further develop the data capturing and storage system first created for the MSTyr15 project, which reviewed energy labels of tyres. It will enhance the functionality of the software to cover other product groups, starting with home refrigeration, networked standby products and professional refrigeration.
The elements in the system are a tablet with dedicated software (an "App") and an online database that can be accessed via the app or via a web interface. The market surveillance inspectors will have tablets or smartphones with the app pre-installed. It will guide them through their inspections by prompting them for the requested information. The information is transferred immediately from the tablet to the database via a mobile data connection. If the tablet is offline (due to poor signal conditions at the inspection site), data are stored locally until the tablet reconnects to the network and transfer the data to the database. Data are stored in a format that is compatible with the ICSMS requirements to enable an easy transfer of data to ICSMS at a later stage.
At present, the team is drafting the specification of the next generation of the software. This includes gathering input and comments as well as experiences from the market surveillance professionals on their experiences. A call for tender for the IT developer will soon be published, so that the system could be ready late summer 2018.

Household refrigerating appliances and professional refrigeration

Organising on-line labelling market surveillance

The project team will review the proper availability and display of energy label and product fiche within online sales for household refrigerators.

Document Inspection

Participating market surveillance authorities are starting the document inspections and are developing coordinated sampling plans for the types of products to inspect. Guidelines and data assessment tools are being developed and shared by the MSAs to inspect the documentation and assess compliance with relevant regulatory requirements in the most efficient and effective way.
The results of the document analysis will be added to the product documentation database developed and will provide valuable market intelligence to plan the next task of product testing.

Coordinated compliance testing programme

The overall aim of this task is to carry out a coordinated testing programme across the participating MSAs. This ensures the most cost-effective balance of market coverage, focus on products judged to be at risk of non-compliance and to avoid any duplication of testing in different Member States. All participating MSAs will agree on a single test programme to be undertaken at one or more accredited test laboratories, which will be selected by the group following an open competitive tendering procedure.
The results of the laboratory tests will be added into the relevant parts of the database developed in the project and will be disseminated to all EEA non-participating MSAs via ICSMS.

Identification of defeat devices and “work-rounds”

As a supplement, the expert laboratories will be requested to undertake supplementary testing beyond that specified in the regulations and the harmonised test standard. This will include check testing to the new IEC standard that has been specifically developed to eliminate “cheat-ware” software circumventing the tests. They will also review procedures for any “loopholes” in the test standards and regulations that could be exploited to circumvent requirements or artificially inflate the declared performance.

Networked Standby

Document Inspection

Project partners will review technical documentation of selected models, agreeing by consensus on the types of products to inspect. They will assess the compliance of each model with the relevant documentation

requirements. The information and the results of the document analysis gathered from these inspections will be added to the product documentation database.

Coordinated compliance testing programme

Under this task, project partners will organise a common testing procedure, in which the compliance of selected models will be evaluated. The test programme will be organised in accredited test laboratories, selected in a public tender.
The testing undertaken will be 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. Results contained in the laboratory test reports will be added into the relevant parts of the project database and will be disseminated to all EEA non-participating MSAs via ICSMS.

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 this product sector, i.e. products with network connectivity, the task focus will be on the potential that their performance could be modified remotely by manufacturer after installation, and thus alter the energy efficiency of the product.

Discussion and support of enforcement activities, monitoring impacts

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 (specific enforcement measures are the responsibility of the Member States, not set out in EU law). Results (products re-labelled, withdrawn, sanctions applied, etc.) 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.
Project partners will also gather data on the estimated value of non-compliant products removed or withdrawn from the market, quantity of energy savings due to removal of non-compliant products, financial impact of the extra energy required by the non-compliant products, and the estimated energy savings.

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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.

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