

Revision of the energy label framework: key aspects

The European Commission's proposal for a revised Energy Label framework regulation is currently being discussed. The working document suggests very promising changes to the current out-dated Label with only A+ to A+++ classes on the market for many product categories. Topten's key recommendations are:

Good: A to G scale, not showing classes that have been banned

The original A to G scale has shown to be best understood by consumers in several studies. Restoring the scale and not showing classes that have been banned by Ecodesign requirements will make it easier for consumers to identify the most efficient products.

Good: Regular rescales, but empty classes A and B needed

When 30% of products are in the two top classes, the scale will be shifted and products re-classified. Leaving the two top classes empty at the introduction of a rescaled label is the only realistic way to ensure that a label remains effective for several years. If only class A is held empty, there is the risk of constant transition periods.

Good: product registration with public and searchable database

As in most other regions, also EU suppliers will register the products they put on the market. The products database will provide an overview on models and their efficiency, thus providing market information for policy decisions, facilitating market surveillance, and allowing for consumer information tools. It is key that the data is publicly accessible, searchable, available for download and providing an overview on 'equivalent' (technically identical) models.



Improvement needed: absolute energy consumption

For some product categories efficiency is improving, but consumption is going down slower – because the label is rewarding large products, inefficient technologies or extra features (e.g. washing machines, TVs, air conditioners, refrigerators). Absolute energy consumption is what finally matters, and must be considered better in the regulation: Consumption should always be declared on the Label, and the 'efficiency' definition should favour low energy-consuming models.

More information

- Commission proposal for revised energy label framework: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/1_EN_ACT_part1_v6.pdf
- Topten recommendations in more detail: www.topten.eu/uploads/File/Topten-comments-Label-revision-Nov2015.pdf
- Product registration: Topten recommendations an discussion paper, Nov 2015: www.topten.eu/uploads/File/Topten-recommendations-product-registration-database_Nov_15.pdf
- Anette.Michel@topten.eu