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Green Procurement in Europe

Household Appliances

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Considered Household Appliances

Large household appliances:

- Refrigerating appliances
- Dishwashers
- Electric Ovens
- Washing Machines
- Dryers
- Washer Dryers

Not considered products

Small household appliances:

- Coffee machines
- Electric kettles
- Toasters
- Vacuum jugs
- Vacuum cleaners
- Blenders/food-processors
- Hand mixers
- Waffle irons/sandwich-makers
- Kitchen scales

Reasons:

- Products not covered by the EU Energy Label/Ecolabel schemes or national schemes
- Difficulties in determining of the objective energy and environmental criteria
- In most EU countries products considered in public and commercial procurement very seldom and accidentally

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Labels for Household Appliances

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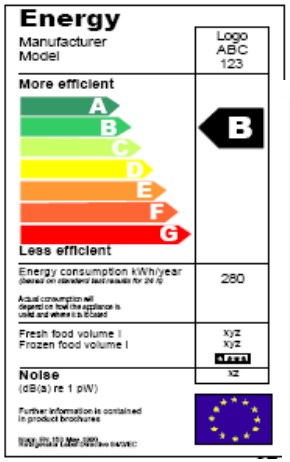

Main EU labels for household appliances:

- EU Energy Label (mandatory)
- EU Ecolabel (voluntary)

National labels (voluntary):

- Blue Angel (Germany)
- The Nordic Ecolabelling
- The Energy Saving Trust (UK)

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General tips for green criteria selection (1)

Power consumption in low power modes:

- power consumption in the “off mode” and in the “standby” should be the lowest possible
- however, the requirements of Regulation 1275/2008 on the consumption in standby and off mode should be taken into consideration instead of setting additional and more stringer power consumption limits
- attention should be paid also when sensor-based protection functions (consuming additional power) are present in washing machines, washer-dryers and dishwashers

Power consumption of additional features:

- clocks, timers, displays will always consume energy, thus care should be taken that the relevant power input is as low as possible

General tips for green criteria selection (2)

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Washing machines and washer-driers should:

- have instructions making consumer aware on the negative effects of an excessive use of detergents. This criterion is also applicable for dishwashers.
- be suitable for connection to a hot-fill water supply ONLY if the inlet hot water is produced through either electric or thermal energy from a RES or similar source, if not this criterion results only in waste of material and thus of energy.
- perform a higher spinning speed when a dryer is used in countries belonging to the Moderate or Cold Climatic Zone.

Freezing units should be equipped with automatic defrosting option.

Purchasing policies

- Appliances should be always purchased when necessary and with the appropriate size (volume/capacity) to meet real customer need
- All appliances should belong to the highest energy efficiency classes. Currently:
  - for refrigerating appliances (refrigerators, freezers or their combinations) efficiency classes A++ and A+++
  - for wash dishwashers and washing machines: efficiency classes A++ and A+++
  - for other appliances: energy efficiency class A or above (if present).
- Member States may make the application of these criteria subject to cost-effectiveness, economical feasibility and technical suitability and sufficient competition.

General tips for the user

Refrigerating appliances:

- should not be installed close to radiators or other heat sources.
- Direct sun exposure leads to an increase of cooling power and energy demand.
- Air circulation on the back side of the appliance is important for the efficient energy use, especially for built-in models.

Washing machines, washer-driers and dishwashers:

- should be used only at full load.
- The selection of the appropriate washing programme (i.e. washing temperature) is important.

Sources of information

- EU: GPP Toolkit

  http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/first_set_en.htm

- Ecolabel

  http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm

- Blue Angel

  www.blauer-engel.de/

- Buy Smart

  www.buy-smart.info

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