

Brussels, 13 June 2017

The revised Energy Labelling Regulation

The revised Energy Labelling Regulation to replace Directive 2010/30/EU sets new rules for EU Energy Labels on energy-related products.

Essential provisions

- All energy labels will revert to green to red scales **using only letters from A to G** (A for the best). Scales may exceptionally use fewer letters for products with small differentiation on the market. Bottom classes emptied by minimum standards will be progressively greyed.

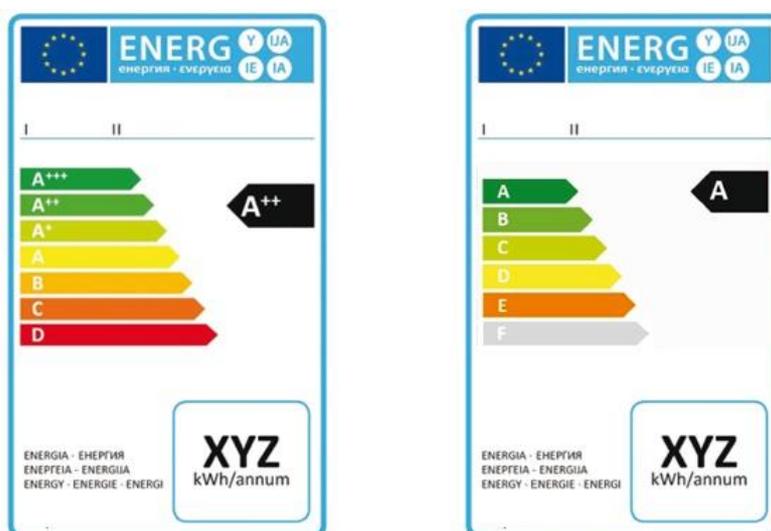


Image 1: Current label (left) vs How a label scale could look like in the future (right)

- Label scales will be designed to last around ten years, with the A class (or occasionally A and B) to be **empty at the start**. Once too many models populate the top classes, a **rescaling** is triggered and label class levels reset. Market dealers will have to change labels in shops accordingly.
- As before, labels will be supplied by manufacturers and importers to market dealers for each unit placed on the market, together with a more detailed technical fiche. Dealers shall make the label and fiche available to customers in shops and online.
- In visual ads and promotion materials, **the energy class and range of available classes shall be referenced**. Manufacturers are not allowed to create own labels mimicking official ones. If Member States implement national incentive schemes, they can only do so for product models in the **two highest significantly populated classes**.

- Manufacturers must inform customers of any change during the product lifetime (e.g. software update) that would degrade the original energy performance, and users shall be given the option to refuse.
- Market monitoring and surveillance activities will be enhanced by the establishment of an **EU product database**, in which suppliers must declare the characteristics and energy performance of models they place on the market. The non-sensitive part will be free to access.

Regulatory process

- Label specifics will still be decided in **delegated acts**: the European Commission prepares and adopts proposals, which are submitted to the Council and European Parliament for a two-month scrutiny period. During this time, they have the right to veto the proposals (the period can be extended for another two months once).
- The preparation of delegated acts involves preparatory/review studies, discussion with a consultation forum of stakeholders, and assistance of a committee of Member State representatives. The understanding of label details will be tested beforehand on representative groups of consumers.

The first six labels to revert to A-G

The Commission shall adopt rescaled labels in the coming years for six urgent product groups, to ensure that the new labels are in shops **by 2020**:

- Household refrigeration
- Household washing machines
- Household washer-driers
- Household dishwashers
- Televisions
- Lamps & luminaires

Image 2 below provides two examples on how critical the situation has become. The gravity of the situation will increase further by 2019, as labels will pile up in classes with pluses (A+, A++, A+++)



Image 2: Market shares on the EU market in 2015 for washing machines (left) and refrigerators (right) (source: Topten EU)

After rescaling, the situation may typically look something like this for a new label (the actual class distribution will depend on the way new class boundaries are set):

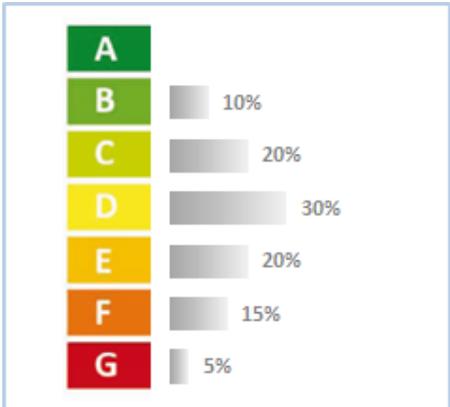


Image 3: Illustrative class distribution after a rescaling

The uncertainty for other existing labels

Other existing labels will be rescaled by 2025 at the latest, however exact dates remain unclear. There is a risk of persistent confusion for eight more years or so, with varying scales from one product group to another.

This includes:

- domestic ovens
- kitchen hoods
- domestic air-conditioners
- residential ventilation
- domestic tumble driers
- vacuum cleaners
- professional refrigerated cabinets

Labels for **space and water heaters** have an even longer derogation until 2030.

Based on current trends and guesstimates, Image 4 illustrates how the situation might look like for two of those existing labels by 2024 if they are not revised earlier:



Image 4: Hypothetical market shares by 2024 for existing drier and vacuum cleaner labels

The rescaling in shops in practice

Rescaling a label means that from one day to another, the label scale changes and so do the ratings of products on the market. A smooth transition is indispensable.

According to the Regulation, four months before the date of entry into force of a rescaling, manufacturers and importers are requested to start providing dealers with new label versions for their product models (except those that are about to be discontinued).

After the entry into force, dealers have **two weeks** to remove old label versions in shops and display the new ones. This should ensure a swift transition. The shift in online shops may even go quicker.

The Regulation includes a few accommodations for specific situations (e.g. bankrupted manufacturer, change in test methods, etc.)

How long will the new A-G labels last?

The A-G labels that will progressively be put in place will be designed to last several years before the top classes get too crowded.

Once the population of the A class on the label exceeds 30%, or that of the A and B classes combined exceeds 50% of the market, the European Commission will prepare a review to rescale the label within three years with more ambitious A-G classes.

The timelines below illustrate what would have happened to the first label for household refrigeration launched in 1994, had this rescaling rule existed back then.

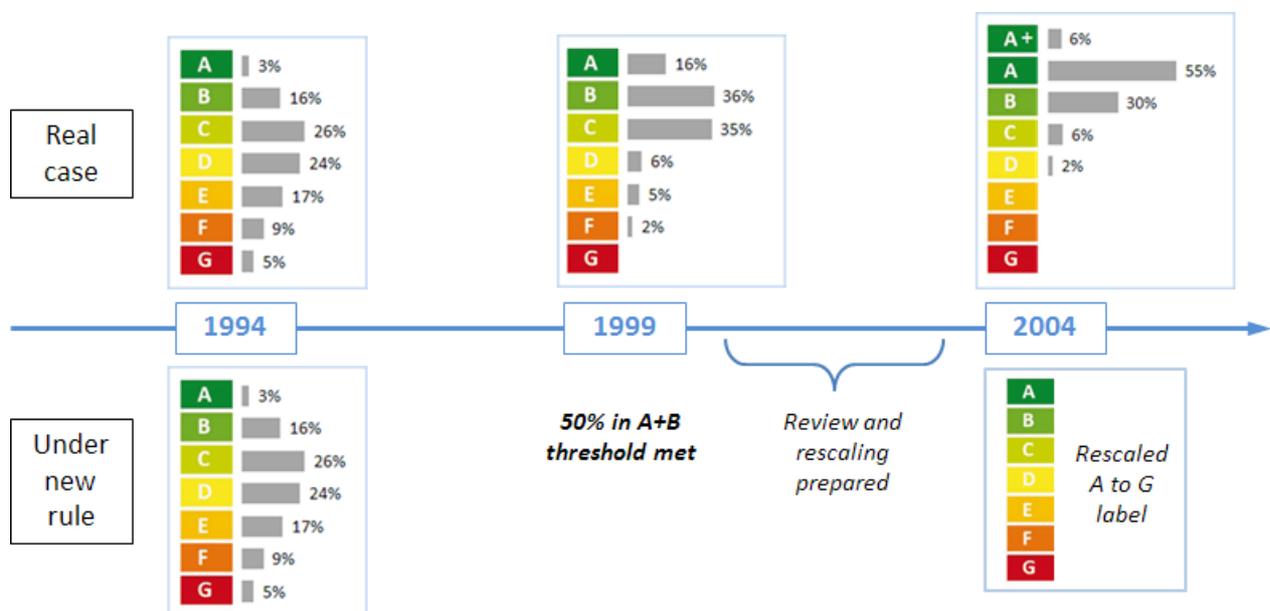


Image 5: Cold appliance label in reality (top) vs if the new rule had applied (bottom) (source for market shares: COLDII and JRC)

The product database: what is it and how useful will it be?

The EU database launching in 2019 is a product registration tool where manufacturers and importers will provide information on all product models they place on the common market and their energy characteristics (including the energy label). Such databases already exist in other large economies.

The database will be instrumental in identifying products on the market, keeping track of market changes (best available models, average efficiencies, evolutions of other product characteristics, etc.), evaluating policies, as well as for practical uses such as easily downloading missing energy labels or improving the focus and swiftness of market surveillance.

It will also facilitate communication activities about efficient products and the design of effective support and incentive schemes.

The database will include a free-access, open data part for the general public, as well as a restricted area for market surveillance authorities with more sensitive information.

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