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Regulatory Policy & Promotion of New Energies and of Demand Management

ENERGY STAR

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ENERGY EFFICIENCY LABELLING PROGRAMME FOR OFFICE EQUIPMENT



WORKING PLAN

VERSION 2004-12-03

1. INTRODUCTION

Office information and communication technology equipment is responsible for a large share of electricity consumption in the tertiary and residential sectors within the European Union. This share is increasing due to the rapid penetration of information and communication technology (ICT) in all sectors of the society and the continuous increase in performance of the ICT equipment. Action to reduce energy consumption and increase efficiency of ICT is therefore justified.

As office equipment is traded world-wide, an Agreement¹ was signed December 2000 between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community intended to co-ordinate energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment in two of the major global markets for office products. The Agreement is intended to stimulate international trade of office equipment, by facilitating the procedures for economic operators to participate in the ENERGY STAR programme. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the European Commission manage the Agreement and it will remain in force for an initial period of five years.

¹ Council Decision 2001/469/EC concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community on the co-ordination of energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment, OJ L 172, 26.06.2001, p.1.

The ENERGY STAR labelling programme is a voluntary labelling programme that will be used to achieve three different goals, as follows:

- To help consumers identify energy efficient office equipment products that could save them money and help protect the environment by saving energy.
- To raise awareness in users, equipment and component manufacturers, and re-sellers about energy use in office. Nowadays, the selection criteria for new equipment are mostly based on price and performances while completely ignoring the energy consumption of the equipment that is purchased and used. Moreover, current use of office equipment does not take the energy consumption into account and good practices such as ‘switching off the equipment after use’ or ‘enable power management’ are often neglected.
- To act as a *de-facto* world-wide efficiency standard for office equipment. This is due to the very international nature of the ENERGY STAR, which is present in most of the OECD countries. Furthermore, as a consequence of the US federal procurement policy that requires office equipment to meet the ENERGY STAR requirements, all the manufacturers “must” *de facto* meet the ENERGY STAR requirements if they want to sell to the largest buyer in the world. This double nature of the ENERGY STAR will make it unique in the sense that any challenging level to be set will then result in a large number of equipment meeting that level. Therefore, the ENERGY STAR specifications should have a very dynamic nature in order to be able to follow the market transformation that is caused by the label itself, as well as the fast technological evolution.

In its early stages in the European Community, the ENERGY STAR label shall also constitute the main vehicle to promote energy efficiency in office equipment and to encourage the wide adoption of good practices like: to switch-off the equipment when not needed (during night-time and week-ends) and to enable the power management features.

The European Commission, having regard to the Regulation (EC) No. 2422/2001 establishes the present Working Plan taking into account the views of the European Community Energy Star Board (ECESB). This Working Plan sets out a strategy for the development of the ENERGY STAR programme for the three subsequent years.

2. THE OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE ENERGY STAR EC PROGRAMME

The ENERGY STAR Programme shall aim at optimising the energy consumption of office equipment. To achieve this goal the ENERGY STAR requirements shall be of a dynamic nature, so that it follows both the market transformation consequences of the label and the fast technological evolution. It is therefore recommended that, when a new ENERGY STAR criterion is issued, this is set at a very challenging level, so that it is met by 20 to 25% of the equipment existing on the market at the date the eligibility criteria are set. This market-share target shall be only indicative and, in some cases, where some technological breakthrough emerges, which may be adopted by most of the equipment on the market at low extra-cost, the above indicative market-share could be reduced. Besides, the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Community on the co-ordination of energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment sets, in Article X, some rules to avoid undermining the ENERGY STAR Programme or conferring commercial advantages to specific companies holding patents.

In the past years, the ENERGY STAR specifications have been focusing on introducing a sleep mode requirement, i.e. a lower power consumption in which the “enabled” equipment will fall after a certain period of inactivity, and progressively reducing the sleep mode power requirement. This action, although still necessary, only addresses one part of the office equipment energy consumption. The active mode consumption is becoming increasingly important due to the more powerful equipment that has been brought into the market (e.g. Personal Computers), along with the possible increased importance of on-mode status in the overall power consumption as a result of the increased use of Internet and the enhanced communication needs. Finally, the energy waste shall be avoided and, consequently, strict requirements for the off-mode shall be introduced (this shall be in line with the international 1 W initiative).

In this context, it is proposed that all ENERGY STAR office equipment specifications shall be reviewed over the next years, in order to define power/energy specifications which are based on duty cycle (off, sleep and active mode); with very strict off mode requirements.

Accordingly, the following set of actions shall be conducted.

3. Upgrade of the ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria

3.1 Revision of ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria for Computer Monitors

The revision process of monitor specifications is in its final stage of adoption. Version 4.0 of the revised specifications will enter into force on the 1st January 2005 for Tier 1 and on the 1st January 2006 for Tier 2.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Participate in development of measurement method	Designate experts for the technical sub-group	COM/ECESB	Done
Define new eligibility criteria for monitors	Meeting of technical sub-group	COM/ECESB	Done
	Meeting of the ECESB	COM/ECESB	Done
Prepare negotiation mandate		COM	Done
Endorse negotiation mandate	Special Committee Council	MS/COM	Done
Adopt the new specifications	Agree with US EPA, adopt the new specifications, publish in the OJEU	COM	Q4 2004

3.2 Revision of ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria for Imaging Equipment

Though it included constructive elements such as a detailed typology for imaging equipment (copiers, faxes, scanners...) the proposal by the association of manufacturers EICTA was endorsed nor by the ECESB neither by the US EPA as regards the eligibility criteria. The US EPA is developing a new approach and testing method. The Commission shall develop, in consultation with the ECESB and the special committee designated by the Council, the Community position in relation to decisions to be taken with regard to the amendments of the technical specifications.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Establish with US EPA a new testing method	Meeting(s) of technical sub-group	COM/ECESB	Q4 2004
	Meeting of the ECESB	COM/ECESB	Q4 2004
Define new eligibility criteria for imaging equipment	Meeting(s) of technical sub-group	COM/ECESB	2005
	Meeting(s) ECESB	COM/ECESB	2005
Consult Special Committee Council	Present the draft specs to Special Committee Council	MS/COM	Q1 2006
Adopt the new specifications	Formally agree with US EPA, adopt the new specifications, publish in the OJEU	COM	Q2 2006

3.3 Revision of ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria for Computers

Version 3.0 Tier 2 of the computer specifications has been in place since July 2000 and needs revision. While the current specifications focus solely on low-power sleep modes, the feasibility of a more comprehensive specification that addresses other modes, including active mode, will be investigated. The Commission shall develop, in consultation with the ECESB and with the special committee designated by the Council, the Community position in relation to the amendments of the technical specifications.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Define new criteria for imaging equipment	Meetings of technical sub-group and of the ECESB	COM/ECESB	2005-2006

(Tier 1)			
Consult Special Committee Council	Present the draft specs to Special Committee Council	MS/COM	Q1 2006
Adopt the new specifications	Formally agree with US EPA, adopt the new specifications, publish in the OJEU	COM	Q2 2006

4. ENERGY STAR MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION TOOLS

4.1 Registration of Programme Participants and Qualifying Products

In its role of Management Entity, the Commission will assess applications from companies to become Energy Star Partner and will register qualifying products conforming to the eligibility criteria. The list of registered products will be updated regularly on the dedicated website, awaiting the entry into operation of the common international database. On-line registration will then be applied.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Assess Program Participants applications	Record and confirm participation	COM	On-going
Assess Product forms applications	Record, check and register qualifying products and update website	COM	On-going

4.2 Co-operation with the US EPA in the development of the International Energy Star database

A database with compliant ENERGY STAR products is a prerequisite for educational and promotional campaigns. It allows for identification of compliant products and it facilitates mutual recognition and surveillance. It also provides key information on market transformation issues.

In order to facilitate data harmonisation and gathering between the two energy-efficient labelling programmes for office equipment, the European Commission will co-operate with the US EPA in establishing one world-wide ENERGY STAR database including all registered office equipment products. This database will include relevant energy data on the compliant products. Data of compliant products is entered only once. Data entry via the web will be provided.

Regional (i.e. EC, US, Japan, Canada, Australia, Taiwan, Korea) web-sites shall use this world-wide database to download lists of compliant products, as well as products' related data, which are relevant for their region and in accordance with the instructions notified

by the manufacturers if any (e.g. when registering with the programme, companies could be asked to indicate on which markets they wish their ENERGY STAR products to appear).

The Commission will discuss with the US EPA the conditions to ensure:

- that the data can be used for selecting at any time the top performing models among those registered and that such data can be accessed by consumers
- that the data is up-to-date and reliable for the purpose of public procurement.

4.3. The EC Energy Star programme Web-site

The European Commission will continue developing and maintaining the EC ENERGY STAR dedicated web-site. This site will facilitate access to relevant information tailored for the different actors, including e.g. programme participation guidelines for manufacturers, information about registered equipment available in the EU market (from the International Database mentioned above), as well as information on the means of the label, tips on how to save energy, test-cases on profitable energy savings, technical information on specific behaviour and operation of power management in different operating systems relevant for retailers and consumers.

The EC ENERGY STAR programme web-site will include links to the national ENERGY STAR web-sites that will be set up in parallel by the Member States. Links will be also established to the web-sites of the ENERGY STAR management entities in the United States, Japan and other countries. This European Community web-site, together with the national web-sites, will constitute important hubs for links through to other stakeholders such as manufacturers, retailers and industry and consumer groups.

5. STRATEGIC ACTIONS

Further to Council Decision 2003/269/EC and Regulation (EC) N°2422/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the following tasks shall be carried out.

5.1. ECESB report on market monitoring

Market monitoring, including product characteristics, volume of sales and projections, helps defining where action is appropriate and required. In particular, there is a need to be able to identify which equipment consumes the most of energy within the office equipment sector and that offers the best opportunity for energy savings. Also the share of products on the market that meet the eligibility criteria is an indicator of appropriate timing for revising the requirements. In this context, the ECESB, notably with the contribution of the relevant industry representative(s), shall draw up a report on the market penetration of products bearing the common logo and on the technology available for reducing energy consumption.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Draft report on market monitoring	Define content and contributors	ECESB/COM	Q4 2004
	Draft and adopt the report	ECESB/COM	Q1 2005

5.2. Commission report on assessing the EC ENERGY STAR programme / possible renewal

The Commission, in consultation with the ECESB, shall assess the EC ENERGY STAR programme in the light of the experience gained during its operation. The report shall

- evaluate the effectiveness of the Programme
- evaluate whether the ENERGY STAR specifications are effective enough
- examine the result of the dialogue between the EU and the USA.

The report shall provide guidance in preparing the discussions on a possible renewal of the Agreement.

Action	Steps	By	Timing
Assess the EC Energy Star Programme	Draft assessment report	COM	Q1 2005
	Consult the ECESB on draft assessment	COM/ECESB	Q2 2005
Report to European Parliament and Council	If the assessment is negative, report to EP and Council ² and make proposal to repeal Reg (EC) N°2422/2001	COM	Q3 2005
Renew the Agreement	If assessment is positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss with the US EPA on new Agreement • Make a proposal for a Council Decision to renew the Agreement • Make a proposal to amend Reg (EC) N°2422/2001.³ 	COM/ECESB	Q3 2005

² Termination of the Agreement is automatic in the absence of a Council Decision for a renewal

³ Needed inter alia for modifying the Common Logo

