

European Union response to Decision XXXIV/3: Enabling enhanced access and facilitating the transition to energy-efficient and low- or zero-global-warming-potential technologies

In response to your request to share any information pertinent for the preparation of the report pursuant to paragraph 4(b) of decision XXXIV/3, this note mainly focusses on energy efficiency policies implemented at EU level that are of particular importance to notably the RACHP sector and its energy efficiency, presented in a tabular format.

EU policy fact sheet

Energy efficiency and ecodesign at EU level

Policy measures – relevant regulations	
<p>Energy Efficiency Directive</p>	<p>First adopted in 2012, last updated in 2023¹</p> <p>Target(s)/ measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises the level of ambition of the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for the 27 EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction of energy consumption by 2030 compared to an updated historic baseline. • Requires local heating and cooling plans in all larger municipalities in the EU to allow for better planning towards decarbonisation (e.g. prepare of impact on the grid of roll out of a large amount of heat pumps). • Based on the revised definition of efficient district heating and cooling, minimum requirements will be gradually tightened in the coming years to promote a fully decarbonised district heating and cooling supply by 2050. • EU countries will be obligated to annually renovate at least 3% of the total floor area of heated/cooled buildings owned by all levels of public administration.
<p>Ecodesign Directive</p>	<p>Adopted in 2005, revised in 2009²</p> <p>Target(s)/ measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecodesign requirements for individual product groups are created under the EU's Ecodesign Directive; environmental performance of products is improved by setting mandatory minimum standards for their energy efficiency. • Since March 2021, ecodesign also includes requirements on reparability and recyclability. • Applicable to 31 product groups, including among others fridges and freezers and heating and cooling products. • Ecodesign requirements for air conditioners are being revised as present minimum performance standards are outdated. • Ecodesign requirements for space heaters and water heaters are currently being reviewed, specifically to promote the switch away from stand-alone fossil fuel boilers.
<p>Energy Labelling Framework Regulation</p>	<p>First introduced in 1992, last revised in 2017³.</p> <p>Target(s)/ measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy labelling requirements for individual product groups using a comparative scale from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) (see figure below for examples). • Currently, 15 product groups require an energy label, including fridges and freezers and heating and cooling products. • In 2021 five product groups, amongst which were also fridges and freezers, were “rescaled” because most products on the EU market by then were highest classes. • Since 2013, the EU uses a single label to compare hydronic space heating appliances (boilers and heat pumps). The same approach is also used for water heating. These labels are being revised to promote the switch away from fossil fuel.

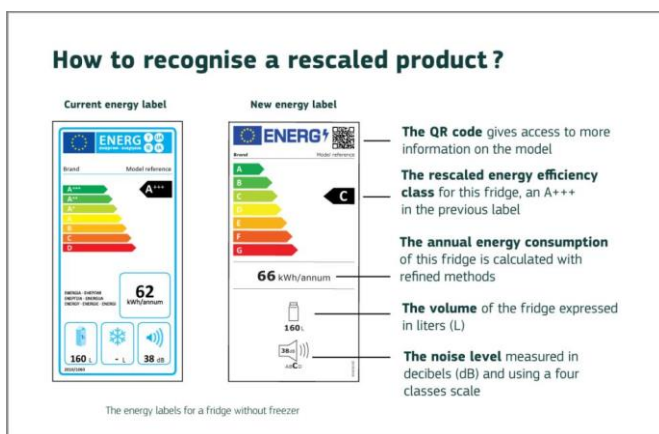
¹ [Energy efficiency directive](#)

² [About the energy label and ecodesign](#)

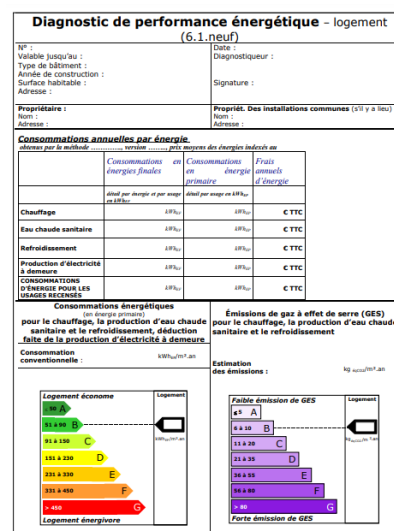
³ [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/1369 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 setting a framework for energy labelling and repealing Directive 2010/30/EU](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new single label is being proposed for air conditioners, which would regroup both split and portable air conditioners; in heating mode, the scope would extend to electric heating and fuel-based appliances.
Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	<p>Adopted in 2002, last revised in 2018⁴</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy performance of buildings is indicated by energy labels (Energy Performance Certificate - EPC) with a scale from A to G, similar to that of domestic appliances: 'A' = extremely energy efficient building that consumes no more than 50 kWh/m² per year; 'G' means that the building is extremely wasteful and consumes more than 286 kWh/m² per year. Sets minimum Energy Performance Requirements for newly build housing, as well as for renovation. Proposal for a revision presently being considered that would significantly increase ambition.

Example EU energy label for a) products and b) buildings:



a.



b.

The EU labelling can be complemented by Ecolabels at Member States' level

A best practice example:

- Germany: Blue Angel



For over 45 years, the Blue Angel has been Germany's official eco-label. It's a voluntary mark given to eco-friendly products and services across a broad spectrum. This independent label distinguishes top products in a category based on comprehensive criteria, setting it apart from labels focused on a single factor or self-awarded by manufacturers. It covers various items, including energy-efficient air conditioners⁵, heat pumps⁶ and chillers⁷, which need to be free of halogen-containing refrigerants in order to be certified.

⁴ [Energy Performance and Buildings Directive](#)

⁵ <https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/productworld/air-conditioners>

⁶ <https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/productworld/heat-pumps>

⁷ <https://www.blauer-engel.de/de/produktwelt/fluessigkeitskuehler>