

Brussels, 9 August 2007

Energy using Products: Deadline for transposition imminent

Member States have until 10th August to transpose the Energy using Products (EuP) Directive (2005/32/EC) into their national legislation. This framework Directive aims at the provision of coherent EU-wide rules for eco-design for engineering equipment based on a “cradle to grave” approach, while at the same time ensuring that disparities among national regulations do not become obstacles to intra-EU trade; as such it is an example of the European Union’s ‘better regulation’.

The Directive does not itself prescribe requirements for particular products or aspects: this is done through voluntary industry self commitments or through regulation – so called “implementing measures”. In order to identify which environmental characteristics are the most relevant for any given product or product category, the Commission has embarked on an impressive number of studies - 19 - which have been running simultaneously. Results of the first one covering public street lighting have recently been discussed with stakeholders and the first implementing measures should be in place by mid 2008. For these products, the most relevant characteristics identified, which will be included in an implementing measure are energy consumption, waste and mercury. The results and follow up of the other studies will follow on shortly afterwards and are all expected to be completed by early 2009.

Said Adrian Harris, Secretary General of Orgalime, “we see that the Commission is moving forward with unprecedented speed and resources to follow up the framework Directive. They are already in the process of drawing up the next list of products to be studied in detail in a working plan to be published shortly. This no doubt reflects the political pressure being brought to bear on it by the European Parliament and national governments, particularly in the area of energy efficiency. Our industry is working hard to cope with the pace. “

Orgalime which had already played a substantial role in the discussions leading up to the adoption of this Directive is now engaged in monitoring and coordinating the industry’s approach on these studies and on the future working plan and has also taken the lead on the horizontal issue of losses arising from equipment in ‘standby’ and ‘off-mode’ positions on which it has drafted a position.

See over...

Orgalime, the European Engineering Industries Association, speaks for 35 trade federations representing some 130,000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic, metalworking & metal articles industries of 23 European countries. The industry employs some 10.6 million people in the EU and in 2006 accounted for some €1,779 billion of annual output. The industry not only represents more than one quarter of the output of manufactured products but also a third of the manufactured exports of the European Union.

www.orgalime.org

Added Harris: *“Meanwhile, it is with great concern that we note that the EU institutions are beginning once again to plan legislation which will undermine the coherence of the eco design Directive: most notable among these is the draft waste framework Directive which proposes to allow and even exhorts member states to introduce different product design provisions at a national level. Such an approach can only lead to differing requirements in the various member states or even regions, thereby once again undermining the possibility to design one product for the European market as a whole which takes into account all environmentally relevant characteristics at the same time. There is still a lot of work to do to turn the mantra of “Better regulation” into a credible policy.”*

Ends

Notes for Editors:

Stand-by & off-load losses, EuP study Lot 6, Task 1 - Orgalime Comments,
<http://www.orgalime.org/Positions/positions.asp?id=255>



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