

'ECOmise it™': EBV Elektronik Presents Latest Update on EuP-Regulation Regarding 'Consumer Electronics: TV'

New Requirements Regarding the Energy Efficiency of Televisions

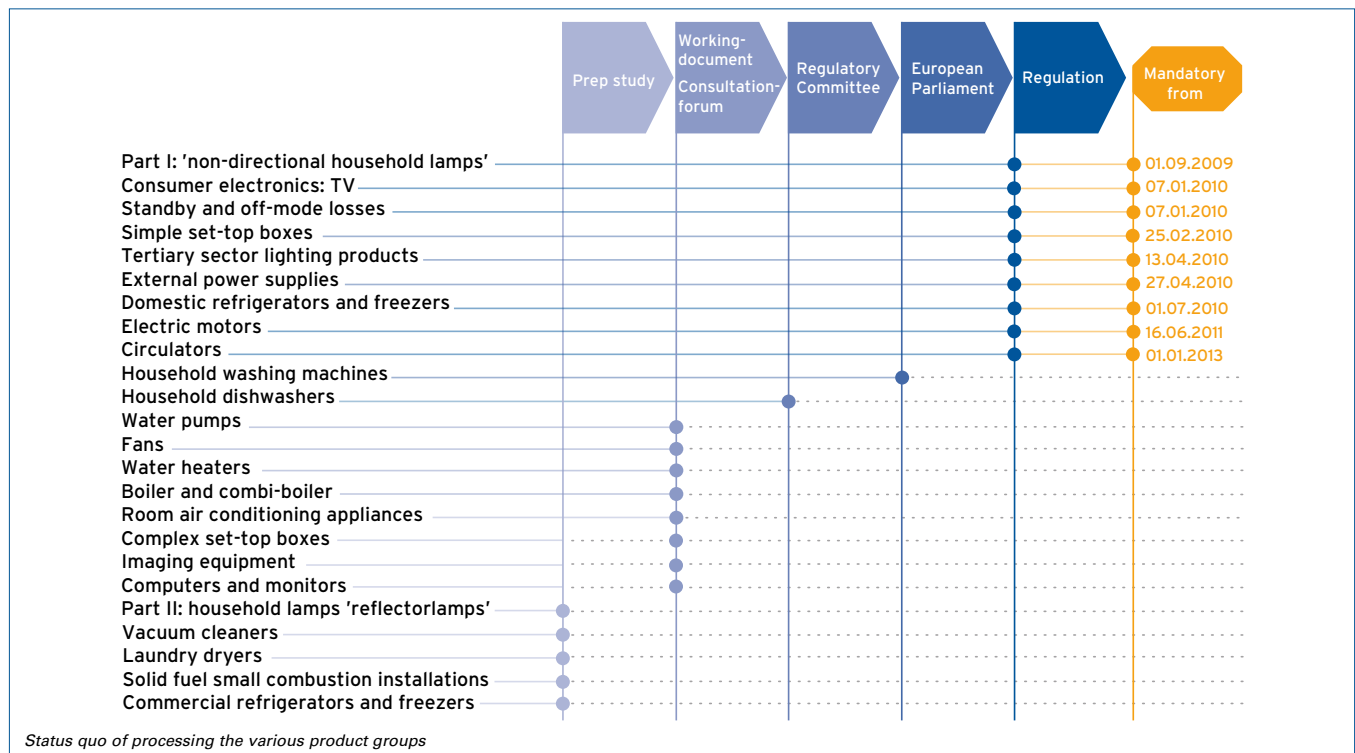
by Laura Spengler, Ökopol GmbH/EuP Consultant EBV Elektronik, January 2010

Regulation (EC) no. 642/2009, which was passed in July of last year, heralded new, EU-wide requirements regarding the energy efficiency of televisions. The first of these requirements will be enforced from the start of January 2010 and will apply to all televisions marketed within the EU. Television manufacturers can already start preparing for the subsequent stages of the regulation, which will increase energy efficiency incrementally between now and 2012.

The regulation is an implementation measure of the Ecodesign Directive (2005/32/EC), which means that, like other similar measures, it aims to reduce energy consumption during the utilisation phase of the covered products (among other things). Although the pre-amble to the regulation makes reference to environmental issues concerning the manufacture and disposal of televisions, it does not specify any requirements in this regard because this is already covered by other regulations

(Directives 2002/95/EC and 2002/96/EC). In addition to requirements regarding energy efficiency, however, the regulation lays down obligations for the manufacturer regarding the product information that must be provided, such as whether the television contains mercury or lead.

Both televisions and video monitors fall within the scope of the new regulation. The power consumption of the equipment in different operating modes (on/standby/off) is limited. When the equipment is switched on, the limit permitted as of 20 August 2010 depends on the type of equipment and the size of the screen. A distinction is also made between high-resolution and standard screens. From April 2012, televisions will be subject to more stringent limits regardless of their resolution. From 7 January 2010, the power consumption of all televisions in 'off' or 'stand-by' mode must not exceed 1 W (this applies to all televisions equally), unless the television



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is equipped with an information or status display function, in which case a limit of 2 W for 'stand-by' mode applies. These limits will be tightened from August 2011. From this date too, televisions must also be equipped with an automatic 'switch-off' function that is activated, at the latest, four hours after the last action carried out by the user.

According to the EU Commission, these measures will result in annual energy savings of 28 TWh in the EU by 2020 in comparison with the 'business-as-usual' scenario. Despite these energy savings, however, absolute energy consumption resulting from the use of televisions in the EU is expected to increase from 60 TWh in 2007 to 104 TWh in 2020 as consumers increasingly purchase bigger and higher-resolution televisions as well as second televisions. This 'rebound effect' can be seen with lots of products, but is particularly pronounced with televisions.

In addition to the regulation outlined here, the EU Commission has published regulations for refrigerators and freezers, electric motors and circulating pumps. This means that binding minimum standards for a total of nine product groups have been defined in the form of legally binding EC regulations as part of the implementation of the Ecodesign or EuP Directive. Further regulations are in preparation.

A comprehensive description of the Ecodesign Directive along with a description of the regulations relating to the 'stand-by' and 'off' mode consumption of electrical and electronic household and office equipment (EC Regulation no. 1275/2008), simple set-top boxes (107/2009), products for commercial lighting (245/2009) and household lighting (244/2009), electric motors (640/2009), circulating pumps (641/2009) as well as refrigerators and freezers (643/2009) were provided in a series of articles supported by EBV Elektronik.

Regulation	(EC) no. 642/2009
Date of publication	23 rd July 2009
Came into force on	12 th August 2009
Effective	07 th January 2010
Scope	Televisions
Area of applicability	Energy consumption, product information

Schedule, scope and area of applicability of Regulation (EC) no. 642/2009

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