

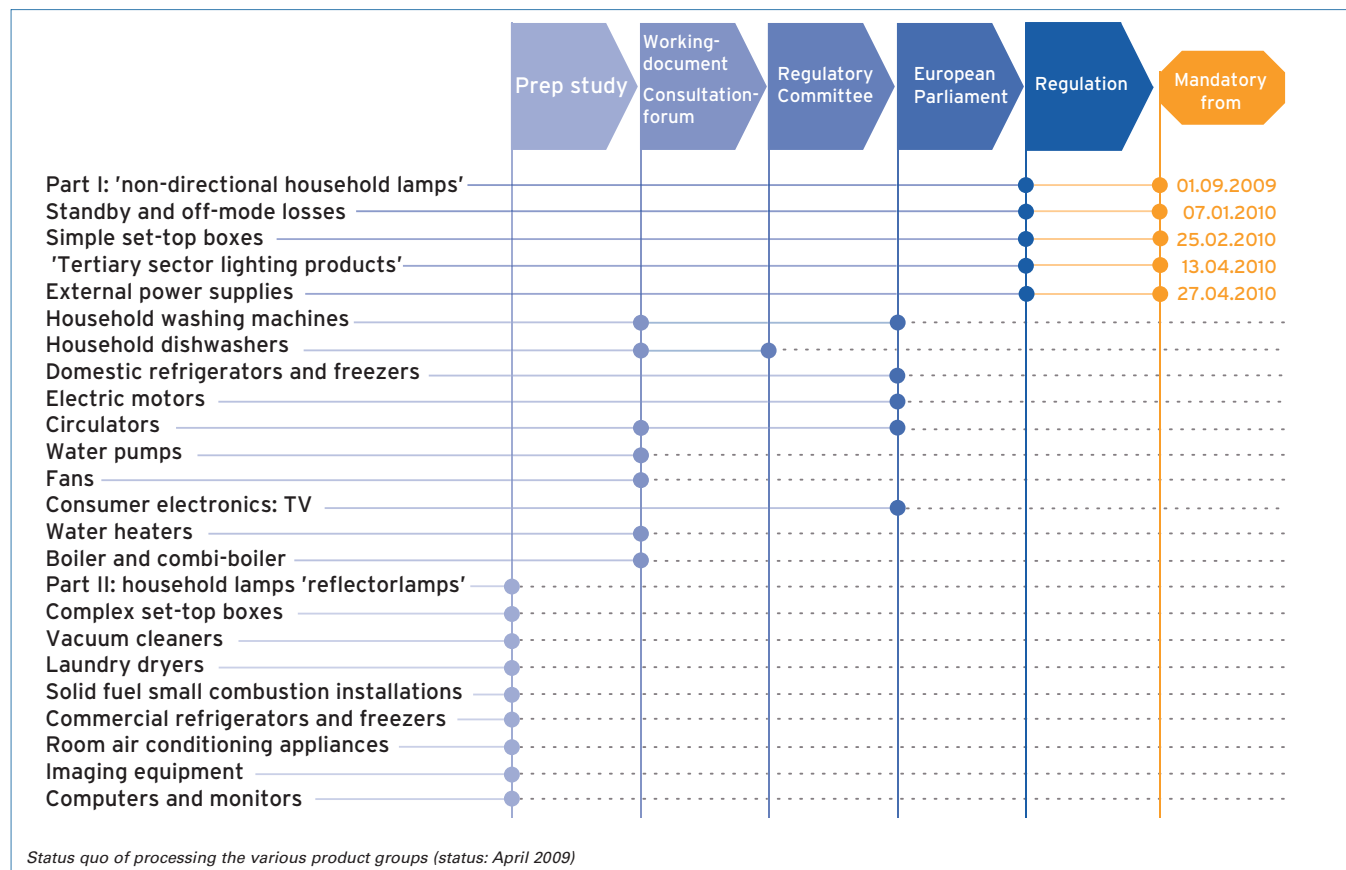
# 'ECOmise it': EBV Elektronik Presents Latest Update on EuP-Directive Regarding Standby-Mode

Off does not always mean Off: New Binding Requirements Regarding Standby-Mode for Office and Domestic Devices

by Dr. Norbert Reintjes, Ökopol GmbH/EuP Consultant EBV Elektronik | April 2009

Anyone who believes an appliance stops consuming electricity once it's been switched off is often mistaken. As the number of devices with standby functions steadily increases, they consume around 50 TWh of power each year in Europe according to the EU Commission. This exceeds the amount of power supplied by the Biblis, Brokdorf and Isar nuclear power plants put together. Yet, there is enormous savings potential. There are also technical solutions for significantly reducing standby and off-mode consumption. However, they are making slow headway in the market as manufacturers of products with a low standby consumption incur extra costs. Although decreased standby consumption means lower electricity bills for end-customers, in most cases this criterion has little influence on the decision to buy an appliance. As a result, there is little in the way of reward for efforts undertaken by manufacturers.

In view of this situation, the EU Commission has passed a regulation specifying a binding upper limit for power consumption in standby/off mode for the majority of office and domestic electrical and electronic devices. In accordance with this regulation, (1275/2008/EC, dated 17 December 2008), the power consumption of new devices launched on the market as of 7 January 2010 is restricted to a maximum of only 1 Watt in standby and off-mode. From 2013, this limit is to be further tightened to 0.5 Watt. Devices with an information display may use twice this amount. It is generally not an option to provide devices without standby or off-mode functions as it must be possible for devices to be switched to at least one of these modes. Four years after the regulation takes effect, a further requirement will be for newly launched devices to switch automatically to a state of low energy consumption.



The EU Commission's aim in introducing this regulation is to effect a reduction of more than 70% in the amount of power consumed by devices in standby mode by 2020. Publication of the regulation was preceded by a drawn-out process set out in the EuP Guideline, also known as the ecological design guideline. The first stage was to compile relevant data and facts in a preliminary study, followed by public discussion of draft regulations.

This is the first regulation to be passed as a step towards implementation of the ecological design or EuP Guideline. As the only regulation planned to date, it covers a broad range of product groups ('horizontal' regulation). The published regulation was quickly followed by the first product group-specific ('vertical') regulation, for simple set-top boxes. A number of other regulations are set to follow in 2009. Binding minimum standards for external power supply units as well as products for commercial and domestic lighting are expected soon.

Regulation	1275/2008/EG
Published	17 December 2008
Applicable	7 January 2009
Effective	7 January 2010
Scope	Domestic and office devices
For regulation of	Power consumption in standby and off-mode

A comprehensive overview of the ecological design guideline appeared as the first article of a series sponsored by EBV Elektronik and can be found via the InfoClick number 290966.

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