

EWFA Info Sheet

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Energy Labels in Europe

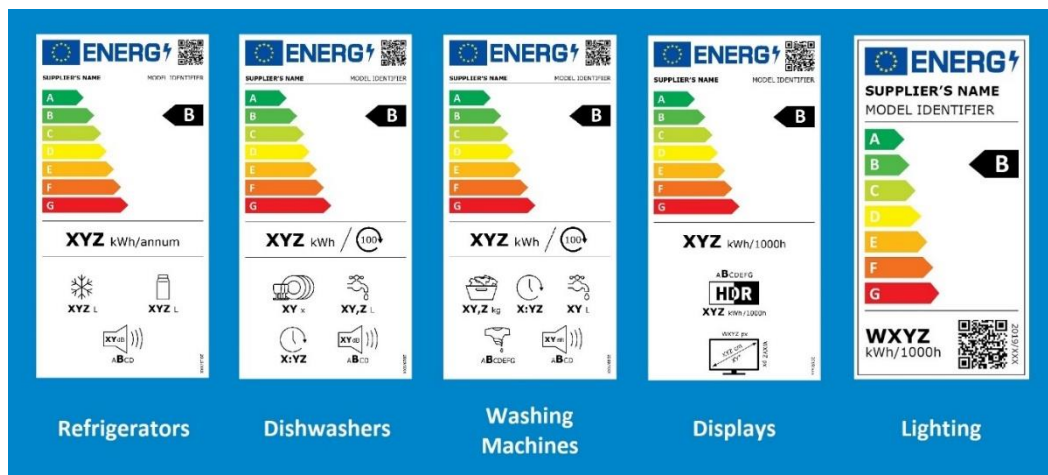
This Info Sheet has been produced by the European Window Film Association (EWFA). As the European Chapter of the International Window Film Association (IWFA), the EWFA represents the interests of the window film industry across the European continent and further afield by supporting its members' interests and increasing awareness of window film products in the region.

EWFA members are manufacturers and distributors of window film supplying high performance products for both architectural and automotive applications. Typical architectural applications include small and large residential buildings, commercial buildings (hotels, restaurants, shopping centres, airports), offices, schools, or industrial plants. Typical automotive applications include passenger cars, light commercial vehicles, commercial and industrial transport as well as service vehicles.

1. What are Energy Labels?

The EU energy label is a widely recognised feature on household products, like lightbulbs, televisions or washing machines, and has helped consumers make informed choices for more than 25 years.

The energy label provides a clear and simple indication of the energy efficiency of a product at the point of purchase. It helps consumers to compare products, save energy and thereby save money on their future household energy bills. By opting for the more energy efficient products, they will also contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the EU.



Source: [Power.](#)

First introduced for several household appliances in 1994 and subsequently expanded in 2004 - with a comparative scale from A (most efficient) to G (least efficient) - the EU energy label has been a key driver for helping consumers choose products which are more energy efficient. At the same time, it also encourages manufacturers to drive innovation by using more energy efficient technologies.

Manufacturers are keen to see their energy-labelled products in the highest available category when compared to competitors. Therefore, it is likely that manufacturers who sell appliances in the less efficient classes aim to improve their rating to position their products within the highest category. For example, roughly two-thirds of refrigerators and washing machines sold in 2006 were labelled as class A, whereas over 90% of those sold in 2017 were labelled A+, A++ or A+++.

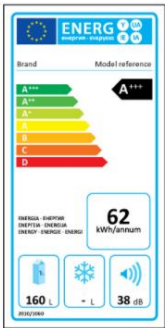
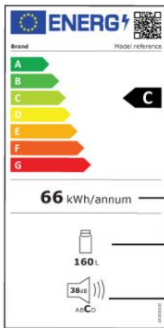
In addition to information about the product’s energy consumption, the labels can also provide specific data about other relevant features of usage, such as the product’s noise emissions or water consumption.

2. Rescaling of Energy Labels in 2021

Together with ecodesign requirements, the EU energy label has, been a key achievement for the EU that has partly been victim of its own success. As the energy efficiency of products has continued to improve, more and more products have occupied the top classes, leaving classes below D virtually empty. With the difference between A++ and A+++ being less obvious to consumers, surveys showed that a plain A to G scale was more likely to guide consumers towards choosing efficient products, so it was time to introduce a simpler scaling system for EU energy labels.

Since 1 March 2021, the new A to G scale applies for fridges, dishwashers, washing machines, televisions, and lamps. Other product groups will follow in the coming years (tumble dryers, local space heaters, air conditioners, cooking appliances, ventilation units, professional refrigeration cabinets, space and water heaters, and solid fuel boilers). Each new energy label is designed so that the A class initially is empty to leave room for innovation and development of new, more energy efficient models.

How to recognise a rescaled product ?

Current energy label	New energy label	
		<p>— The QR code gives access to more information on the model</p> <p>— The rescaled energy efficiency class for this fridge, an A+++ in the previous label</p> <p>— The annual energy consumption of this fridge is calculated with refined methods</p> <p>— The volume of the fridge expressed in liters (L)</p> <p>— The noise level measured in decibels (dB) and using a four classes scale</p>
The energy labels for a fridge without freezer		

Source: [European Commission, About the energy label and ecodesign.](#)

A number of new elements are also included on the labels, including a QR link to the EU-wide database named [EPREL](#) (European Product Database for Energy Labelling). All appliances will have to be registered in this database, which will also allow consumers to find more details about the product, such as data relating to the dimensions, specific features or test results depending on the appliance.

Several ecodesign rules have also come into force with these new labels, notably on reparability and the need for manufacturers to keep spare parts available for several years after products are no longer on the market.

3. Legislative Background

The European Union's ecodesign and energy labelling policies deliver key contributions to the "European Green Deal" objectives. They regulate the environmental performance of energy-related products on aspects related to energy consumption, water consumption, emission levels and material efficiency. They contribute to EU's energy efficiency target, by encouraging the efficient use of energy-related products through the provision of accurate, relevant, and comparable information on the energy consumption of energy-related products, and through the removal of the least efficient products from the market.

Currently around 30 product groups are regulated, based on approximately 50 regulations and a few voluntary agreements. They apply to billions of products placed on the market each year, and have tangible implications for manufacturers, suppliers, retailers, businesses, and consumers daily.

The European Commission has in mind expanding the energy labels and is currently working on a few product groups such as water heaters (completion planned for 2023), computers, tablets, photovoltaic products or ventilation units (no timeline defined).

The selection of what products to consider for new regulations and the planning for reviews of existing regulations is set out in working plans, such as those covering 2009-2011, 2012-2014, 2016-2019 and 2020-2024. A European Commission Communication on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan (EELWP) 2020-2024 was supposed to be adopted during the first quarter of 2022, but it seems it has been delayed to later in 2022.

4. Sources

European Commission: "[In focus: The improved EU energy label – paving way for more innovative and energy efficient products](#)", 2021.

European Commission: "[New EU energy labels applicable from 1 March 2021](#)", 2021.

Glass for Europe, dedicated website for an energy label for windows: <http://windowenergylabel.eu/>.

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