

EU (EN) standards for domestic laundry appliances

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Topics covered in presentation

- Overview of IEC test methodology standards and their use in the EU
- Setting MEPs and Labelling levels in the EU

Overview of IEC test methodology standards and the corresponding standards used in the EU regulations

Appliance	IEC Standard	EU (EN) Standard
Clothes Washers	IEC 60456	EN 60456
Clothes Dryers	IEC 61121	EN 61121
Dishwashers	IEC 60436	EN 60436

Similar numbering system between the IEC and EN standards but some differences in the EN

WHY?

- Introduction of restrictions to take account of regional characteristics e.g. voltage supply limited to 50Hz
- Restricting options available in the test procedure in order to reduce differences in results from different test laboratories e.g. only hard water permitted by the EN
- Additional significant requirements specifically required to enable EU MEPs (“Eco-design”) and Labelling regulations

How are EN standards written for the EU?

- Representatives of the National Standards Bodies (BSI, DIN, AFNOR etc) attend the IEC TCs and SCs that develop the IEC standards
- (Usually) the same representatives of the National Standards Bodies (BSI, DIN, AFNOR etc) attend the CENELEC TCs and SCs that develop the EN standards
- Essentially, the EN standard is the corresponding IEC standard with the inclusion of the EU's "common modifications"

Quite separately, setting the MEPs (Eco-design) and Labelling levels needs to take place. This done independently of the EN standards setting process and does not involve the National Standards Bodies.

Setting the MEPS (Eco-design) and Labelling levels

This is the responsibility of the European Commission. The 27 member states that make up the EU are consulted, but they are no longer able to vote to approve a proposed measure.

The process of developing and so setting performance levels is done:

- In accordance with a time plan
- Following a prescribed process
- In an open and transparent way allowing substantial opportunities for consultation and input from stakeholders and Member States

But, it is not a perfect system...

The time plan

The European Commission sets out a time plan typically covering a 3 year period. In this, it identifies what product sectors it plans to deal with during the period.

The plan is posted in the public domain

Time planning plays an important role at the end of the process too. The Regulations (MEPS and labelling requirements) that are the final output of the process increasing lay down a time schedule for lifting the energy efficiency requirements over the coming years.

For example, the current regulation for clothes washers changes the MEPS requirement from December 2013

The process

The major features:

- Preparatory study – *undertaken by consultants following a structured program requiring them to study what is done elsewhere internationally, do a LCA, establish the situation with the ENs, hold public stakeholder consultation meetings, publish policy proposals*
- Working document(s) – *issued by the European Commission*
- Impact assessment – *issued by the European Commission*
- Consultation forum – *formal stakeholder consultation event*
- Regulatory forum – *consultation event with Member States*
- Commission Delegated Regulation – *issued by the European Commission following an approvals process*

An open and transparent
process?

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The Preparatory Study sets many of the foundations for what follows. If it is not done well then that can lead right through to the development of weak regulations.

The European Commission can fall prey to political pressure and to lobbyists...

Forward looking Regulations are developed based on a mix of assumptions and intelligence. Assumptions always carry some risk and intelligence can be flawed, sometimes deliberately...

There is a near complete disconnect between the Regulations set by the European Commission and the EN development process. It is not unusual to find a new Regulations doesn't yet have a corresponding EN test methodology standard...

Thank you