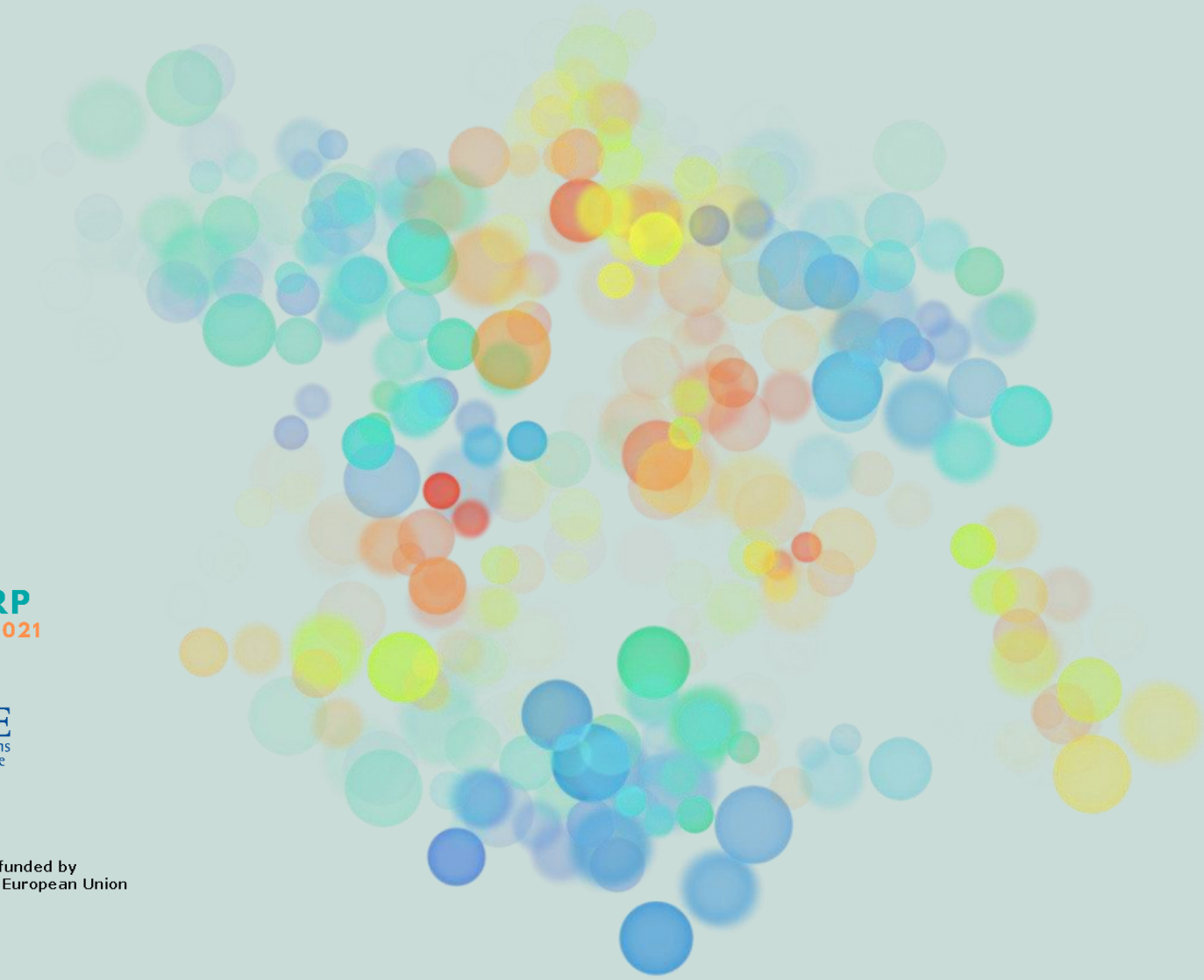
Joint Market Surveillance Action on Harmonised Products

JAHARP2021-02

On Televisions and Computer Monitors

Layman's report



JAHARP MNIBUS 2021

PROSAFE Joint Actions Best Practice

Co-funded by the European Union

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List of abbreviations

ADCO	Administrative Cooperation Group
CE	European Conformity (Conformitè Europëenne)
DG GROW	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
EEA	European Economic Area
EEI	Energy Efficiency Index
EISMEA	European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency
EN	European Standards
EPREL	European Product Registry for Energy Labelling
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
ICSMS	Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MS	Member State
MSA	Market Surveillance Authority
OJ	Official Journal of the European Union
RAPEX	The Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products
WP	Work Package

Glossary

CE MARKING: CE stands for "Conformité Européenne", the French term for “European Conformity”. The CE mark means that the manufacturer takes responsibility and declares that a product sold in the European Economic Area (EEA) has been assessed to meet all applicable safety, health, performance, and environmental requirements.

EU DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY: At the end of the conformity assessment process the manufacturer confirms compliance by drawing up an EU Declaration of Conformity (or ‘Declaration of Conformity’ or ‘DoC’) and affixing the CE marking on the product. The EU declaration of conformity is a mandatory document signed by the manufacturer or authorised representative of a product to declare that the product complies with all applicable safety, health, performance, and environmental requirements. The EU Declaration of Conformity must be issued before the product is placed on the EU market.

ECODESIGN REQUIREMENTS: any requirement in relation to the Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC for improving the environmental performance of energy-related products, such as household appliances, information and communication technologies or engineering. The directive sets out minimum mandatory requirements for the energy efficiency of these products.

ECONOMIC OPERATOR: the manufacturer, authorised representative, importer, distributor, fulfilment service provider, or any other natural or legal person who is subject to obligations in relation to the manufacture of products, making them available on the market or putting them into service in accordance with the relevant Union legislation.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY CLASS: it is based on the energy efficiency index calculated in accordance with Annex II. The energy efficiency class so calculated is the one displayed on the energy label.

ENERGY EFFICENCY INDEX: an index number for the relative energy efficiency of an electronic display, calculated as set out in point B of Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2019/2013 on energy labelling of electronic displays.

ENERGY LABEL: graphic diagram affixed to products sold in the EU, either in printed or electronic form, including a closed scale using only letters from A to G, each letter representing a class and each class corresponding to energy savings, in seven different colours from dark green to red, in order to inform customers about energy efficiency and energy consumption.

ENERGY-RELATED PRODUCT: a good or system (= a combination of several goods which when put together perform a specific function) with an impact on energy consumption during use which is placed on the market or put into service, including parts.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: any action taken by an economic operator to bring any non-compliance to an end where required by a market surveillance authority or on the economic operator's own initiative.

EPREL DATABASE: The European Product Registry for Energy Labels (EPREL - eprel.ec.europa.eu/screen/home) is an EU-wide database set up and operated by the European Commission that enables consumers to compare the energy efficiency class and other data of different household product models.

HARMONISED STANDARD: a European standard developed by a recognised European Standardsisation Organisation defining the technical specifications used to assess/verify that a product complies with the mandatory ecodesign and energy labelling requirements.

ICSMS DATABASE: The Information and Communication System on Market Surveillance (ICSMS - webgate.ec.europa.eu/icsms/) is an IT platform set up and managed by the European Commission which enables the exchange of information between EU-27 market surveillance authorities on non-food product inspections and their results. ICSMS has an internal and a public area. Consumers can access ICSMS’ public area to check whether a product model has been inspected and if it is compliant.

INSPECTION: any market surveillance activity aimed at verifying the compliance of products against the requirements and conditions as defined in the legislation and standards.

LABORATORY VERIFICATION TESTING: testing of products in a laboratory according to the verification procedure set out in the product specific Regulations and following the applicable harmonised standards, transitional methods, or testing conditions described in the Regulations.

MARKET SURVEILLANCE: the activities carried out and measures taken by market surveillance authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in Union legislation.

MARKET SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY: an authority designated by an EU Member State as responsible for carrying out market surveillance in the territory of that Member State.

MODEL: a version of a product of which all units share the same technical characteristics relevant for the label and the product information sheet and the same model identifier.

NETWORKED STANDBY MODE: a condition in which the electronic display is able to resume a function by way of a remotely initiated trigger from a network interface.

NON-COMPLIANCE: any failure to comply with any requirement under the Union legislation.

OFF MODE: a condition in which the electronic display is connected to the mains power source and is not providing any function.

PRODUCT: a type or sub-type of a product within a product group/class. For example, electric or gas-fuelled local space heaters are sub-types of the local space heaters family product group.

PRODUCT DOCUMENTATION: any type of (mandatory and/or non-mandatory) documentation made available in any form by the manufacturer/supplier of a product model and accompanying that model.

PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET: a standard document containing information relating to a product, in printed or electronic form.

PRODUCT PAGE: a product page is a page on a retailer or manufacturer website where potential customers learn about a product's features, pricing, and other product-related information, and through which they can buy the product.

RISK-BASED APPROACH/SAMPLING: the most common approach among market surveillance authorities, used to focus/optimise their limited resources on those products and models considered most likely to pose a risk of non-compliance.

SAMPLES: Different units of the same model. For example, in order to verify the compliance of a model, market surveillance authorities can test three (3) samples/units belonging to that model in a laboratory (what is known as “triple-testing”).

STANDBY MODE: a condition where the electronic display is connected to a power source, depends on energy input from that source to work as intended and provides only the following functions, which may persist for an indefinite time: reactivation function, or reactivation function and only an indication of enabled reactivation function; and/or information or status display.

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION: mandatory documentation compiled by the manufacturer that enables market surveillance authorities to assess the conformity of a product with the applicable ecodesign and energy labelling requirements. A technical documentation file contains specific product information including, for example, a description of the product and its intended use, the results of relevant environmental assessment studies carried out by the manufacturer, information and elements of the product design specification relating to environmental design aspects of the product, the results of measurements on the ecodesign requirements carried out.

TRIPLE TESTING: the testing of three additional samples/units of the same product model, if the testing of the first unit has revealed a suspected non-compliance.

WITHDRAWAL: Any measure aimed at preventing a product in the supply chain from being made available on the market.

Executive summary

Scope and objectives of JAHARP2021-02

The JAHARP2021-02 project on Televisions and Computer Monitors was a pan-European Joint Action coordinated by PROSAFE, which started in June 2022 and ended in May 2024. It fell within the scope of the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling regulations, namely Regulation (EU) 2019/2021 [1]and Regulation (EU) 2019/2013[2], and it aimed at verifying the level of compliance of the products on the single market with EU norms.

The products in scope of this action were electronic displays, with a particular focus on **televisions** and computer monitors. One of the primary goals of the JAHARP2021-02 project was to identify if the environmental savings intended by the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations on Electronic Displays were being achieved through high product compliance rates.

We conducted documentation checks on 117 electronic displays, 36 of which were sent for laboratory testing. Based on the results of the first tests, 6 products were subject to triple testing. The project group carried out a risk analysis and identified products with a high probability of non-compliance. The results indicated that, in fact, the rate of non-compliance of the selected samples of televisions and computer monitors against the ecodesign and energy labelling requirements was very high.

The project group drafted several policy recommendations for the European Commission to support the ongoing review of the two regulations in scope.

Geographical scope

11 Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) from the following 10 Countries have participated in this Joint Action coordinated by PROSAFE: Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Spain.

Participating EU Market Surveillance Authorities in JAHARP2021-02

economie FOD Economie, K.M.O., Middenstand en Energie

Health Food Chain Safety Environment

RheinlandPfalz Landesamt für Mess- und Eichwesen

Consumer Rights Protection Centre Republic of Latvia

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ

FUNDACIÓN PARA EL FOMENTO DE LA INNOVACIÓN INDUSTRIAL

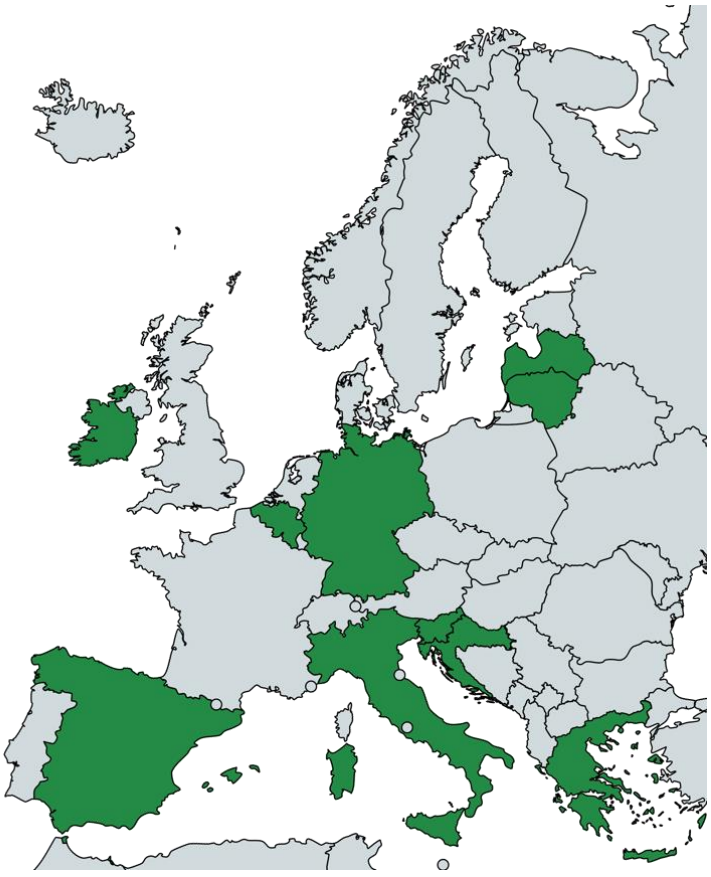
scrpa State Consumer Rights Protection Authority

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA GOV.SI

CAMERA DI COMMERCIO MILANO MONZABRIANZA LODI

seai Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Market Surveillance Authority

Coordinated by PROSAFE Joint Actions Best Practice



[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/2021/oj
[2] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R2013

Highlights and key results

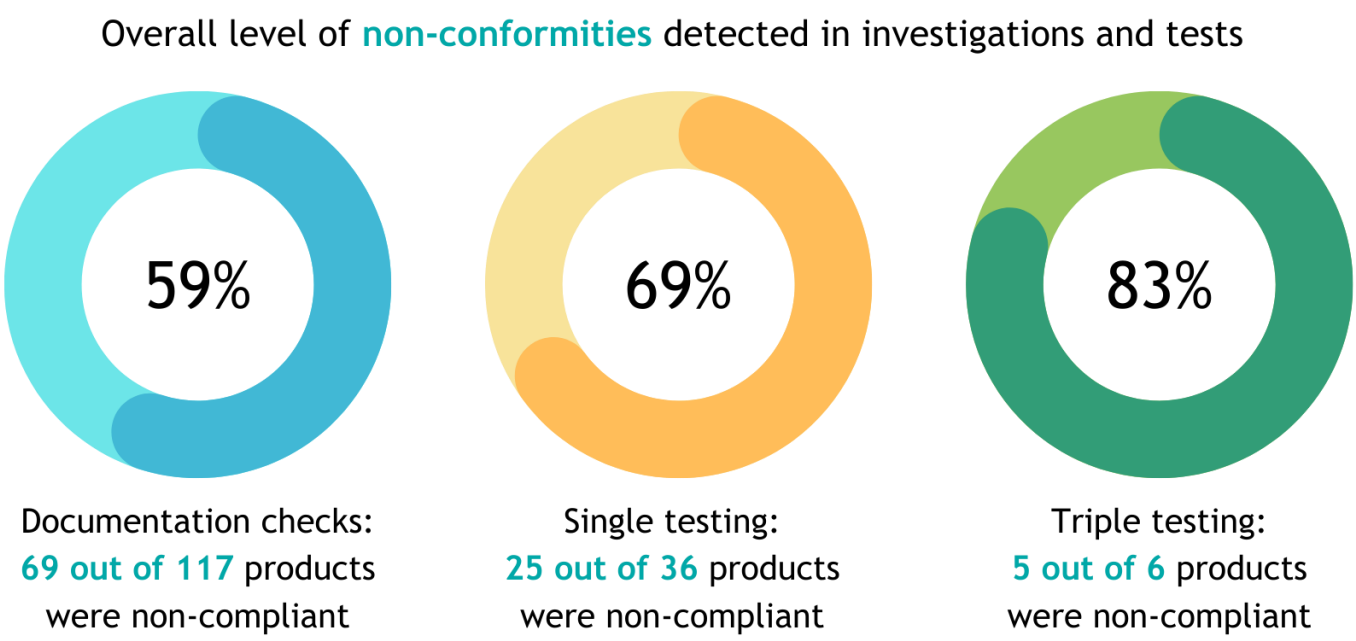
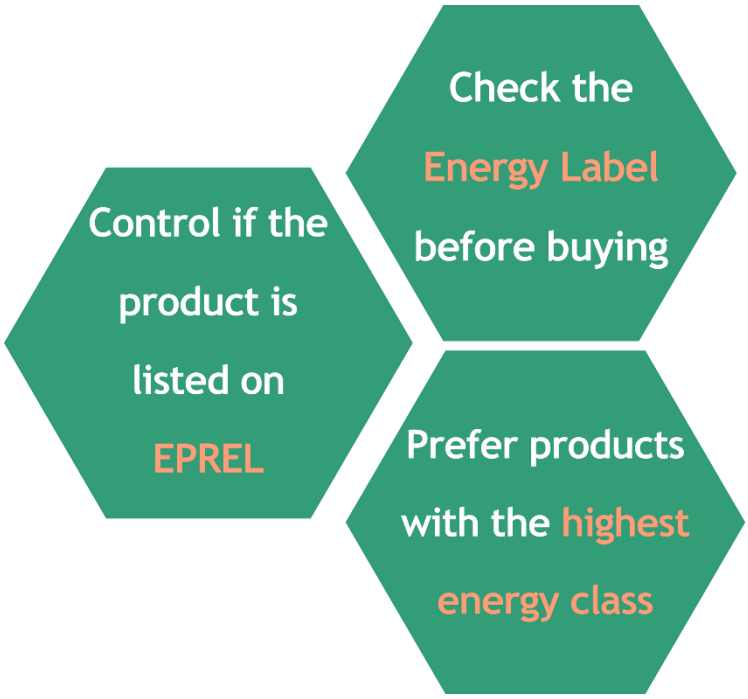


Figure 1 Highlights and key results

CAUTION!

These results are based on samples of products collected from the markets in the participating countries. As in most market surveillance activities, the results represent **the targeted efforts that authorities undertook to identify non-compliant products**. Because of that, **the results of this joint action do not present a statistically valid picture of the situation of the entire market.**

Tips for consumers and Economic Operators



Tips for Consumers

JAHARP MNIBUS 2021

Tips for Economic Operators

Introduction: The JAHARP2021-02 Project

JAHARP2021-02 on Televisions and Computer Monitors aimed at verifying compliance amongst these two product types with the Regulation (EU) 2019/2021 laying down ecodesign requirements for electronic displays and Regulation (EU) 2019/2013 with regard to energy labelling.

Together, the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations on Electronic Displays are designed to drive innovation and sustainability in the market for electronic displays. The main aim is that manufacturers are required to develop more energy and material efficient products, while consumers are empowered to make environmental choices about the products they purchase. The EU Energy Labelling Regulation is also designed to promote competition among manufacturers to achieve higher energy efficiency ratings.

In line with the European Commission goals, the 11 market surveillance authorities involved in this project worked to inspect the compliance status of electronic displays on the single market and to raise awareness amongst consumers and manufacturers on the importance of energy efficiency.

The project results highlighted that there is still a high rate of non-compliance in the market of electronic displays, and that more market surveillance activities are necessary, together with a revision of the above-mentioned regulations, which is ongoing at the time of this report. The project drafted some policy recommendations which have been shared with the European Commission.

Methodology

Figure 2 Project Timeline

As a first step, the participating **MSAs investigated the Electronic Displays market in the EU**. They identified the various types of televisions and computer monitors and estimated the EU's energy use from both categories.

They then agreed on a **Common Code of Practice**, establishing criteria for the selection of products to be subjected to documentation checks and prepared a **checklist for conformity checks** which was used during the assessment.

Based on the results of the document inspections, the MSAs identified products for laboratory testing, and launched a **tender procedure for the selection of the test labs**.

Tests were conducted according to the relevant standards, and some of the products were subject to **triple testing**.

An analysis of the results and an **assessment of the risks** was then conducted, to which **enforcement actions** followed. MSAs informed Economic Operators (EOs) of the results and appropriate measures were taken when applicable.

The tested products were then **donated or disposed of** in accordance with EU rules and in agreement with EISMEA and DG GROW.

Inspection and test results

After conducting a market and risk analysis, the participating market surveillance authorities inspected a non-statistically representative sample of product models placed on the single market to verify their compliance with the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations.

The MSAs performed the initial checks with the support of a checklist for conformity checks, developed by the project. These verifications involved the examination of the product documentation, energy label, Product Information Sheet (PIS) and product registration in the European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (EPREL).

The group then selected thirty-six product models that failed document inspections and had been assessed as presenting a high probability of technical non-compliance, and sent them for laboratory testing.

A total of 6 products that failed the initial testing, were then sent for triple testing, in order to further verify their compliance with the regulations and assess the need and type of enforcement actions to be taken.

National market surveillance authorities took corrective actions to address cases of non-compliance revealed through JAHARP2021-02's product inspections and testing. Enforcement involved an assortment of measures, from informal contacts, information letters requesting documentation alterations, and withdrawals.

Documentation Checks

The first step was the selection of products for documentation checks. The MSAs conducted a market and risk analysis and a screening of EPREL, and shortlisted products which showed a significant level of potential non-compliance, with **89 Televisions and 28 Computer Monitors** (117 products in total) identified. The document investigations showed that **59% of the products (55 TVs and 14 monitors) were non-compliant**, with respect to at least one of the following requirements: ecodesign, energy labelling, EU Declaration of Conformity (DoC) or CE marking.

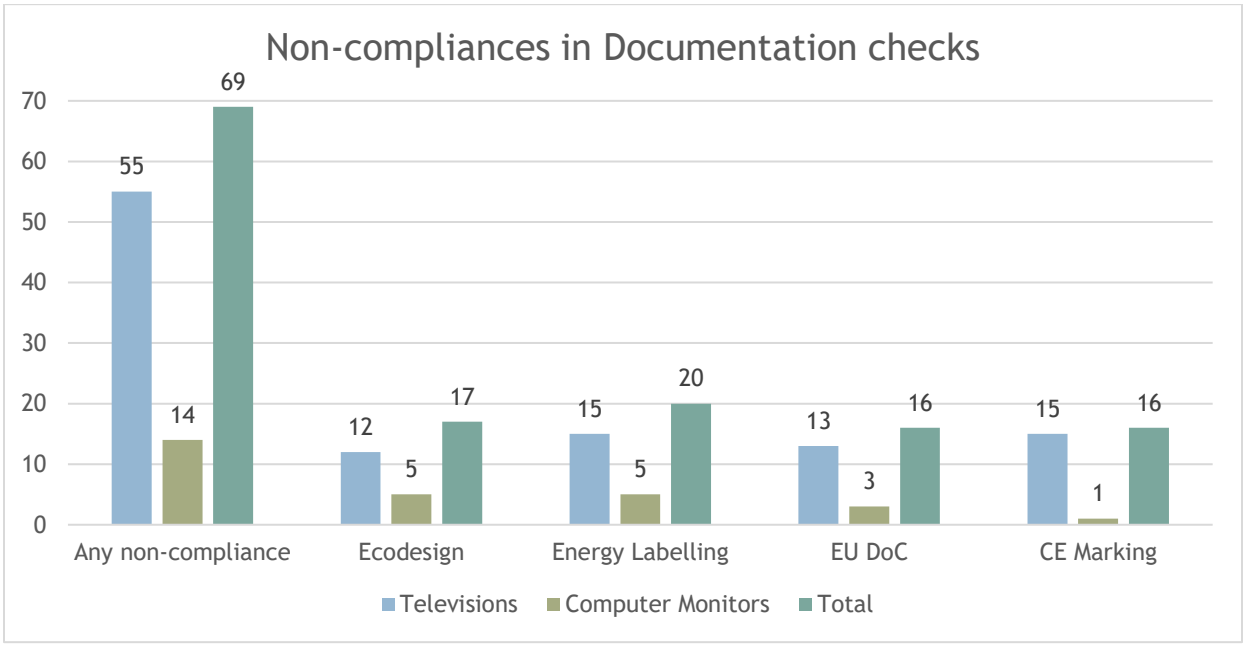


Figure 3 Non-compliance in doc checks

Non-compliance related to the Technical Documentation included incompleteness of data and the absence of the technical documentation being supplied by the economic operators. The most important when conducting conformity assessments and compliance checks with regulatory requirements is that **economic operators should ensure their availability before a product is placed on the market**, as required by the legislation. Failure to provide this information suggests that the economic operator has little awareness of any of the regulatory requirements and, consequently, products are more likely to have non-compliances.

Laboratory Tests

Following a risk-based approach and the results of the documentation checks, the MSAs selected 36 products (24 televisions and 12 computer monitors) for laboratory tests.

An initial **non-compliance rate of 69%** was seen for the products subjected to one set of tests. In total 25 of the 36 products tested failed at least one aspect of either Ecodesign or the Energy Labelling Regulation requirements. An overview of the results of the single testing and the main non-compliances found is shown in the graph below:

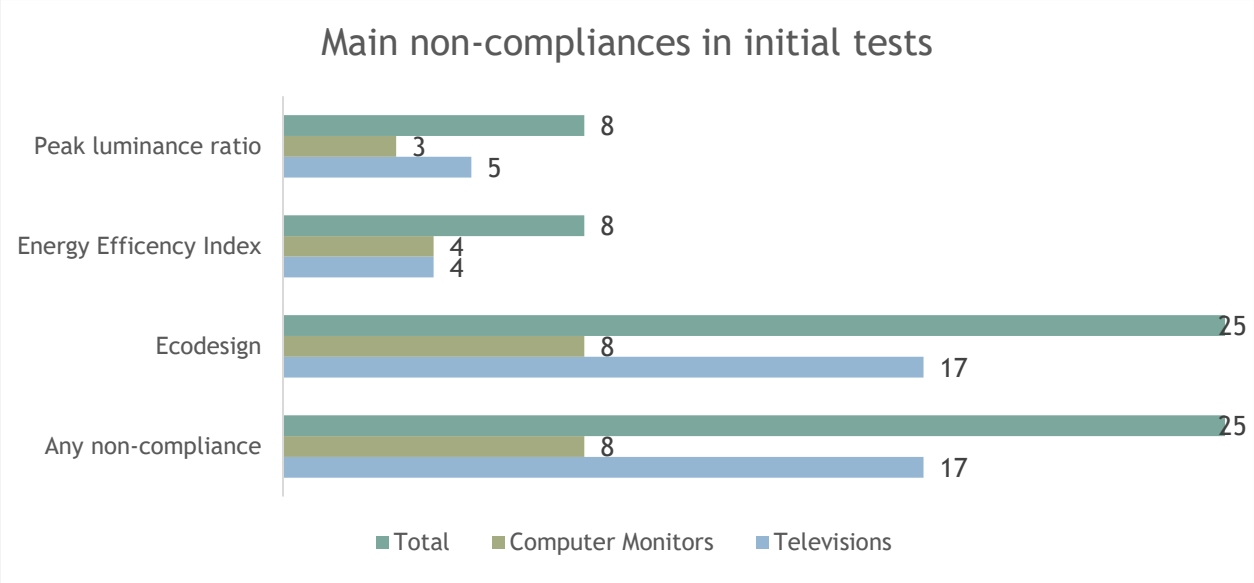


Figure 4 Main non-compliances in initial testing

A product which fails to comply with the **energy efficiency index (EEI)** limit established in the ecodesign regulation uses more energy than allowed for electronic displays in the single market.

The brightness of Televisions and Computer Monitors is the most important factor (other than size) impacting the energy use of these product types. The brighter, or more luminous, a product is, the more energy it uses for its given size. This is why it was important to verify the **peak luminance ratio**, to which 8 products failed to meet the limits established by the Union regulation.

Other important parameters which were measured and showed a lower level of non-compliance were the *network standby mode*, the *standby mode* and the *off mode*. 3 televisions failed the networked standby mode test, and 1 television failed the standby mode test, while all computer monitors passed these tests.

The project workgroup conducted *material efficiency testing* (as established in Annex II of the ecodesign regulation) on one product, which failed, in particular regarding the "Design for dismantling, recycling and recovery" requirement.

Based on the results of the initial tests, the MSAs selected **6 products for triple testing** (3 televisions and 3 computer monitors). The **non-compliance rate after the triple testing was 83%** (5 out of 6 products). The one product that did not pass the initial testing (EEI failure) but passed the triple tests seemed to have varying luminance levels, which was deemed interesting.

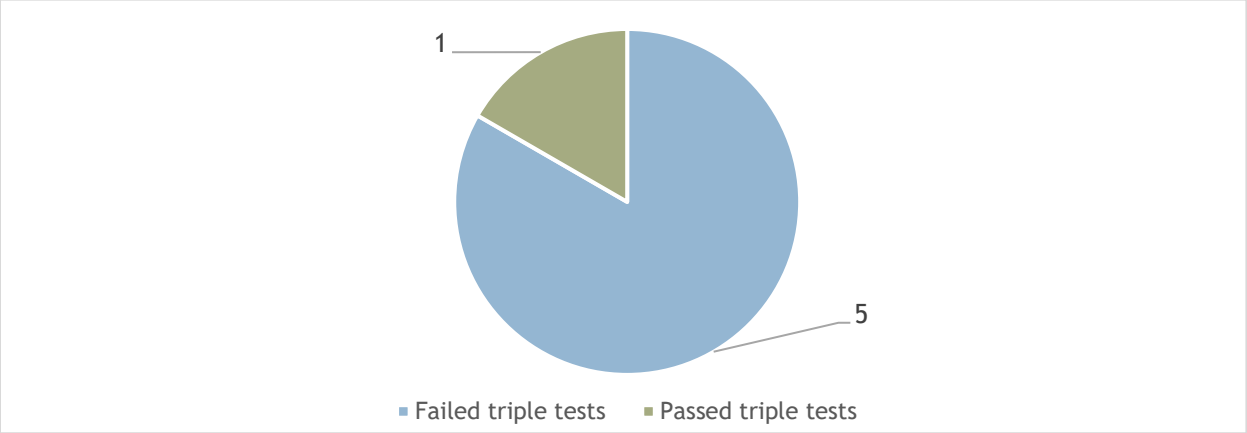


Figure 5 Results of triple testing

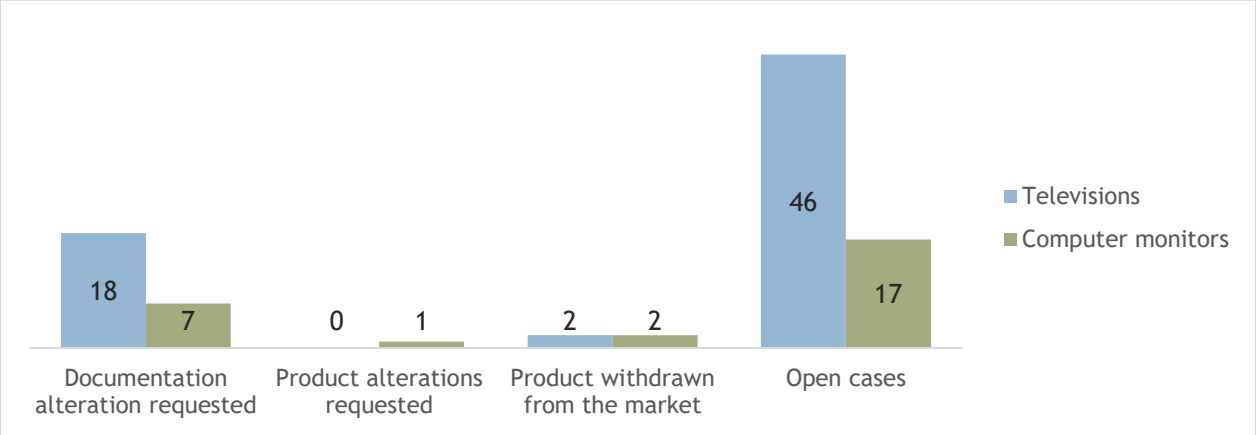


Figure 6 Enforcement actions

The actions mentioned in the graph above have the following meaning:

- **Documentation alterations requested**: The economic operator has been informed that the documentation provided does not meet the full requirements of the EU Ecodesign Regulation or the EU Energy Labelling Regulation. The alterations could be minor or major changes in the documentation provided for the product(s).
- **Product alterations requested**: The economic operator has been informed that the product should be brought into compliance with the requirements of the Ecodesign or Energy Labelling Regulation. Therefore, some alterations would be needed and should be applied to new products made available on the market and to existing products already on the market.
- **Withdrawal from the market:** The economic operator has ensured corrective measures by voluntarily withdrawing the product from the market.

Conclusions and contribution to policy design

The results of the joint action demonstrate that there are clearly significant issues with adherence to the EU Ecodesign Regulation and EU Energy Labelling Regulations on Electronic Displays. The JAHARP2021-02 workgroup has conducted documentation checks on a very wide range of televisions and computer monitors and raised awareness in the marketplace about both the EU Ecodesign Regulation and EU Energy Labelling Regulations on Electronic Displays.

The MSAs involved in the initiative have now significantly more experience with dealing with electronic displays and are fully aware of some of the issues surrounding conducting documentation checks and testing on these product types.

Nonetheless, we believe that a number of important recommendations can be made as a result of the lessons learnt during the project, as:

- **Further activities are needed in the area to raise awareness and increase compliance rates.** This should include activities (informational, educational) in cooperation with consumer and economic operator organisations (in accordance with Article 9 of the Regulation 2019/1020) with the aim to increase the economic operator's compliance to the EU Ecodesign and EU Energy Labelling Regulations on Electronic Displays.

- There should be **additional market surveillance projects** focussing on electronic displays including laboratory testing.

Some policy recommendations were also drafted and shared with the European Commission and the team working on the review of the two regulations in scope of this project.

PROSAFE is coordinating a number of other projects and Joint Actions with the aim of contributing to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020, together with other regulations concerning products' safety and energy efficiency. We will keep working with market surveillance authorities, consumer and business associations to ensure to ensure that products comply to EU Safety and Environmental Regulations.

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