

EEPLIANT 2 - Professional Refrigeration

Notes from webinar held 5 September 2019:

“What suppliers must do to comply with energy label and ecodesign regulations for professional refrigerated storage cabinets”

Speakers Franz Zach, Austrian Energy Agency, WP6 Leader
Jeremy Tait, WP6 Facilitator, PROSAFE Consultant

Context of the webinar

The aim was to explain in simple terms exactly what is required from supplier technical and marketing teams regarding energy labelling and ecodesign requirements, drawing on the good practice approaches collated through the EEPLIANT2 project. Webinar material was also informed by overall lessons from recent lab testing of 25 professional cabinets and inspection of technical documentation from over 50 cabinets across Europe under the EEPLIANT2 project. The free-of-charge webinar was initiated in cooperation with EFCEM who also invited their member organisations across the EU as a benefit to members.

Key points of the webinar

Franz Zach and Jeremy Tait presented the main material to help suppliers. This covered:

1. Why the requirements are important
2. Which regulations are relevant
3. Scope of appliances
4. Overview of obligations
5. Common non-compliances
6. What a market surveillance inspector will ask you
7. Energy label requirements in more detail
8. Ecodesign requirements in more detail

The material in this part of the webinar was drawn from the EEPLIANT2/EFCEM brochure for suppliers that is due to be published in October 2019. PDF-slides and a recording of the webinar are available as well.

FAQ Questions and discussion

Question: Which test method should be used?

Answer: EN16825 is used by authorities for the purposes of conformity assessment and this remains true despite publication of EN ISO 22041 in July 2019 which supersedes EN16825.

Question: Must every cabinet model be tested?

No. Suppliers may extrapolate from test results of a similar cabinet, or test a representative model and declare that consumption (such as for a family of cabinets, as long as the tested cabinet has the highest consumption of the family), or explain in the technical documentation why a model has the same consumption as another tested model.

Question: Won't all energy labels be only A to G classes soon?

Answer: The Commission is transitioning energy labels for all products back to a simple A to G system over coming years but this is several years off for professional cabinets and a date will be set during review of the energy label regulation for professional cabinets

19 July 2019

Question: Must energy labels be displayed at trade fairs such as HOST 2019?

The energy label regulation for professional storage cabinets is not explicit about trade fairs and so the key determining issue that suppliers must consider is that if cabinets are offered for sale in this venue, then the labels must be displayed. The energy label anyway has useful marketing value and suppliers are encouraged to display it.

Question: What links are there between the EPREL EU database and the EEPLIANT2 project?

The EPREL database does not feature in the EEPLIANT2 work plan, but the successor EEPLIANT3 project is now getting underway and has a specific activity focused on EPREL. The EEPLIANT2 team will report back on what this could mean for EFCEM members in terms of seeking advice.

Question: Do these regulations apply to refrigerated display cabinets?

Answer: No. Commercial refrigerated retail display cabinets will come under a future regulation for 'Refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function'. It was noted that professional cabinets that are fitted with a glass door do not escape coverage under the regulations for professional cabinets, as long as the definitions of a professional cabinet as set out in the regulations are met.

Question: How are cabinets already in the supply chain before July 2019 covered?

Any individual cabinet already in an EU supply chain at 1 July 2019 must meet the EEI threshold in force at the time that cabinet was placed on the EU market (which means when it was offered for sale by the manufacturer or by the importer if the manufacturer is outside of the EU). Appliances placed on the EU market after 1 July 2019 must meet the new requirement.