



# Newsletter

INTERIM EDITION

## News on the EEPLIANT3 Concerted Action funded by the European Union

Brussels, November 2020

While still navigating through the COVID-19 health crisis, it is time for an update on the progress of the [EEPLIANT3 Concerted Action](#) to date. In this edition, we provide a snapshot of the key facts and the preliminary findings across our working groups since the launch of the project in June 2019. These highlights were presented to the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling (ED/EL) AdCo in July and November 2020.

EEPLIANT3 is the largest concerted EU market surveillance action in the energy field ever funded by the European Union (EU). Over the past 16 months, 29 partners from 20 EU Member States and Turkey work together to improve the energy efficiency of products placed in the Single Market by identifying non-compliant models with great impact on the environment and the European consumers. Our ambition is the results of our work to contribute to the EU 2030 climate and energy targets and the objectives of the European Green Deal. EEPLIANT3 is funded by the European Union. The project coordinator is [PROSAFE](#) supported by the Austrian Energy Agency and vores bureau as coordinators of certain Work Packages.

### COVID-19 and the impact on EEPLIANT3

The main challenges in the period were related to the COVID-19 crisis and its adverse implications. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020 and the confinement measures imposed across Europe affected the project work plan. Despite all efforts, the completion of certain inspections and testing tasks was delayed. The project took all necessary mitigation measures and continues to assess the situation together with the European Commission in an attempt to reduce impacts and secure the successful implementation of the action.

### Key facts and preliminary findings across (active) Work Packages

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#### The development of IT tools has advanced

After conducting a prioritisation exercise amongst the IT functions and applications for market surveillance, and with the results of a survey issued via the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling AdCo to establish a baseline for wider needs,

EEPLIANT3 has now defined its portfolio of IT tools that are to be developed and rolled out. It comprises 4 components: 1) an upload to ICSMS tool (based on the IT systems built under MSTyr15 and EEPLIANT2 projects); 2) web crawlers; 3) an innovative AI/Robotics project; and 4) “quick wins” (i.e. ‘quick win’ mini projects).

#### A reinforced cooperation with EU customs

EEPLIANT3 works to improve the cooperation between EU Market Surveillance Authorities (MSAs) and customs in ecodesign and energy labelling. A survey amongst MSAs gathered qualitative data on existing cooperation links and best practices. Targeted interviews with customs authorities in 12-15 European countries were conducted during October/November 2020 or are planned for the coming weeks.

The early results of the interviews show that controls by customs in ED/EL area mostly happen on the request of the MSA. A number of barriers to effective border controls were identified that include the lack of access to databases and the lack of knowledge of customs procedures and legislations by MSAs.



This project is funded by the European Union



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## Addressing market surveillance challenges hand-to-hand with the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling AdCo

EEPLIANT3 works in close cooperation with the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling AdCo to identify and tackle new and persistent challenges in market surveillance. A survey of the AdCo members helped the project classify and prioritise these challenges. The background and the proposed solutions for each individual challenge will be depicted in a bespoke “Factsheet” document developed by the respective working group. Next steps in the work plan are the planning of product screening, document inspections and a small testing campaign. The scope and focus of these activities will be defined together with the AdCo and according to its needs.

### Centres of testing excellence

A survey addressed to the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling AdCo has been completed – 28 AdCo members responded. Its purpose was to identify those EU MSAs that undertake testing themselves rather than contract it to commercial testing facilities. The results of this survey demonstrate that the majority of verification testing taking place in the EU currently has been done in commercial testing facilities. EEPLIANT3 will be discussing the situation with the JRC (Joint Research Centre) team tasked with establishing sectorial needs for EU testing facilities (EUTF) on behalf of DG GROW, who are exploring the possibility of developing such facilities under Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.

### Air conditioners and comfort fans

The working group has completed the screening of 59 products, while document and online inspections are still ongoing (250 inspections to date). The preliminary findings demonstrate that product documentation is often incomplete. The results of checks on web shops and EPREL are so far considered poor.

### Household tumble dryers

The screening exercise is completed - a total of 107 products was checked. In addition, 54 web shops have been inspected to date, out of the 300 online shops set as a target. Checks on documents and EPREL are about to start. Similarly to the air conditioners campaign, the preliminary results of the online inspections are unsatisfactory.

## Water heaters and hot water storage tanks

A survey conducted amongst MSAs and a series of interviews with stakeholders helped determine the focus of the activity. The group has almost completed the screening of more than 150 products on the 4 following product categories: Electric storage WH, Load profile 3XS-S, Electric storage WH, Load profile M-4XL <70kW, Monobloc HP WH, Load profile M-4XL, <70kW, Storage tanks <500l. Document inspections are expected to start in December 2020.

### Ventilation units

Document inspections have been almost completed. Checks on online dealers and EPREL are finalised. A preliminary analysis of the results indicates remarkably low compliance rates with the energy labelling requirements and with regards to EPREL. It is observed that, the reference flow rate is often declared (by mistake) in m<sup>3</sup>/h instead of the correct m<sup>3</sup>/s. The group currently examines the underlying factors that contribute to this outcome before reporting.

## The activities targeting lighting products and local space heaters kick start in 2021.

Duration: June 2019 to November 2023\*

\*6-month extension subject to the approval of the European Commission / EASME



■ Time covered to date  
■ Time left

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#### Disclaimer

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