

# „ECOMISE it’: Mandatory energy consumption labelling for televisions from end of 2011

New televisions must also be labelled.

Laura Spengler, Ökopol GmbH, April 2011

**With an estimated 60 TWh in 2007, televisions consume a significant proportion of the electricity used by European households. Since the trend is moving towards larger as well as second or third appliances, this figure is likely to more than double by 2020 unless political measures are taken. A mandatory energy labelling system for televisions should prompt consumers to buy more efficient appliances in future.**

Energy consumption labelling is an important way of informing consumers. The green-to-red scale and the corresponding letters ‘A’ to ‘G’ provide pre-purchase information about the energy efficiency of the product in question. European consumers and manufacturers are already familiar with such systems for domestic appliances such as washing machines and refrigerators. As of the end of 2011, new televisions must also be labelled, a step made possible by new framework conditions for energy labelling. The scope of the EU Directive on which the labelling system is based was originally restricted to certain domestic appliances such as ‘white goods’, water heaters and light sources. Following the amendment, it now covers a wider range of products, including televisions.

In light of this, EU Regulation 1062/2010 was published at the end of November 2010 for the ‘energy labelling of televisions’. The Regulation aims to provide consumers with meaningful information on the energy efficiency of the items available when buying a new appliance.

It stipulates that a label must be displayed with efficiency classes ‘A’ to ‘G’, but anticipates an improvement in the energy efficiency of televisions in the next few years. Classes ‘A+’, ‘A++’ and ‘A+++’ will be gradually added by 2020. Appliances that achieve one of these efficiency classes ahead of time will be labelled with the additional efficiency classes as soon as required. For example, a standard television with a 32-inch screen and a power consumption of 70 W when in use, corresponds to efficiency class ‘C’. To reach class

‘A+++’, it must only use around 14.2 W. In addition to televisions, the regulation also covers video monitors. The efficiency class to which an appliance is assigned depends on its energy efficiency index. When this is calculated, both the



power consumption when in use and the size of the screen are taken into account as well as whether the television has hard drives or additional signal receivers or just a video monitor. This means that, in one respect, the labelling system differs from the closely related regulation for televisions under the Ecodesign Directive, which stipulates compulsory minimum efficiency standards for the appliances. The latter does not permit ‘bonuses’ for hard drives and additional signal receivers, but in exchange it temporarily allows appliances with full HD resolution to use a little more electricity. Aside from this matter, both regulations are harmonised with regard to scope of validity, definitions used and measurement and testing procedures.

Aside from energy efficiency, the label must also show the appliance’s absolute annual energy consumption, assuming that it is used for four hours every day. The power consumption when switched on and the size of the screen must also be specified. Not only does the energy efficiency class of a television now have to be clearly visible while the item is



on sale, but it must also be specified in advertisements and technical advertising material. The stipulations of Regulation 1062/2010 are to be bindingly implemented by suppliers and dealers as of 30 November 2011.

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Regulation	(EU) 1062/2010
Date of publication	30 November 2010
Entry into force	20 December 2010
Effective	30 November 2011 (exceptions: 30 March 2012)
Scope	Televisions and video monitors
Area of applicability	Product information, e.g. energy consumption

*Schedule, scope and area of applicability of regulation (EU) no. 1062/2010*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Spengler works for Ökopol - Institut für Ökologie und Politik GmbH in Hamburg. In addition to basic background texts, Ökopol offers an up-to-date overview of the implementation status of the energy consumption labelling and Ecodesign Directives in the various product groups in a generally accessible Internet information offering ([www.eup-netzwerk.de](http://www.eup-netzwerk.de)). Ökopol supplies the contents for EBV Elektronik's information campaign about the Ecodesign Directive.

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