

The European Commission is open for modifications of the Ecodesign Regulation, including Ecodesign limits, although the Commission acknowledges that since the Ecodesign Regulation has only been implemented since January 1, 2018, it is not possible to assess the market data before and after its application.

The study review is carried out by Viegand Maagøe and the Danish Technological. The draft final report will be published in November and the final report will be ready in April 2019.

Task 1 – Scope

Firstly, the study review is set to fix some of the loopholes that they are aware of:

- Currently, electric underfloor heating products that aren't sold with a master controller do not fall in the scope of the regulation, as they qualify as slave heaters, which are exempt from the Regulation. This is going to be changed and the intention is to bring all slave heaters into scope.

How to bring slave heaters into scope, however, is not clear. Some of the solutions suggested were to include a reference in the slave heater's manual to the type of controls that are valid to make the system compliant. Others recommended that the energy efficiency requirements fell on to the controls (i.e. mandating energy efficient controls). The complexity of doing this was reemphasized by several stakeholders, particularly due to the difficulty for manufacturers to ensure their systems are compliant once sold, or to situations in which a control system is in place that manages more than one system. In addition, mandating manufacturers to sell their products with a controller was discouraged due to the fact that it doesn't allow design flexibility (e.g. the thermostat that the client wants is not the one that comes in the package) and it would have a tremendous impact in terms of logistics for manufacturers. Lastly, the consultants were also reminded of the work being done on Lot 38 'Building Automation and Control Systems', which will regulate the impact of controls on systems.

This is obviously important to the group and we will discuss it in detail at the meeting on July 25, but please feel free to send me any comments beforehand.

- The definition of local space heater relates to the provision of heat in order to 'reach and maintain a certain level of human thermal comfort'. If a local space heater is used for a different application (exemption b) of Article 1), it falls out of scope of the Regulation. The application of the product is simply determined by the manufacturer's purpose declaration. If a manufacturer chose to declare a different purpose (e.g. decorative), their product would, in theory, be exempt from the requirements. Furthermore, whether a product meets their purpose declaration is not easy to investigate by market surveillance authorities. The review study team suggested changing part of the definition of local space heaters from 'reach and maintain human thermal comfort' to 'maintain a certain temperature level' to remove this loophole.
- The definition of towel heaters which are in scope of the Regulation should be included. Towel heaters are currently not mentioned in the Regulation but appear in the FAQs. The inclusion of towel heaters depends on whether it can meet the definition of a local space heater ('reach and maintain a certain level of human thermal comfort'), in addition to its use of towel heating. This is clearly ambiguous/subjective. In addition, some manufacturers classify them as 'decorative' rather than a heater. A suggestion was made that a limit in power be defined. The intention of the review study team is to change the definition of 'local space heater' to avoid this loophole, possibly referencing the fact that a local space heater should have heating controls and a room temperature probe.
- In Article 1 'Subject matter and scope', the use of the word 'domestic' in the term 'domestic local space heaters' seems to refer only to products in the residential sector. However, the definition of

'domestic local space heater' refers to all local space heaters other than commercial ones (i.e. luminous and tube local space heaters). Stakeholders had raised in the past that this could lead to confusion as to whether local space heaters used in offices, for example, were in scope. The review study team have proposed to delete the word 'domestic' from Article 1 to avoid this.

There is an agreement of a lower Primary Energy Factor (PEF) of 2.1 for the Energy Efficiency Directive, but there is no automatic application to Ecodesign Regulations; Viegand Maagøe will assess the impact of a lower PEF and the impact on the Ecodesign Regulation for local space heaters. I asked whether it could be possible to further lower this value, but the Commission clarified that they would like to see a harmonized PEF across different pieces of legislation.

It was highlighted that portable electric local space heaters currently benefit substantially more from controls than fixed electric local space heaters. For example, for correction factor F(2), those portable heaters equipped with mechanical room thermostats or electronic room thermostats are awarded a 6 or 7% efficiency bonus, respectively, compared to the 1 and 3% that is awarded to fixed electric local space heaters. Similarly, presence detection can also be used as a form of control for fixed electric local space heaters but only portable and radiant heaters are rewarded for it (1 and 2%, respectively). This has the unintended consequence of allowing cheap units into the market. Part of the justification for this is that portable heaters are intended to be used intermittently and only cover part of the heating load, so higher rewards for the same forms of control would seem proportionate. This will be revisited in the review study.

The review study is to determine whether the introduction of third-party requirements is appropriate. An ongoing study on third party conformity assessment is running in parallel for solid fuel local space heaters (see this [link](#) for further information). This was not discussed in detail at the meeting, but it was noted that a cost-benefit analysis should be carried out, particularly for electric heating as there's not emissions or security risks.

Lastly, the review study team has included standards relating to the 'smartness' of appliances (EN 50643 'Network standby' and EN 50631-1 'Requirements for interoperability and data models') and material efficiency (EN 45550 series) to the standards that are relevant to this Regulation. The review team have asked for information about this, such as bill of materials or lists of any critical materials.

In terms of the verification tolerances, it was pointed out that they could be tightened further.

Task 2 - Market

The study team has highlighted that it's very difficult to gather data as the categories defined in the Regulation don't match the categories of Eurostat. The Task 2 report simply uses the figures in the impact assessment with extrapolations to 2050. They have asked for input from manufacturers to complete their market data.

Another aspect where they've asked for input is the lifetime of electric products, which seems very long, and comments received suggest they're even longer. On the other hand, the trend of incorporating more and more sophisticated controls might lead to increased obsolescence.

DG Energy will work with Eurostat to shape the categories to match those of the Ecodesign product categories. First results of this are expected for 2019.

Next steps:

- Comments in writing on the interim draft report to be sent to Viegand Maagøe **by 3 August 2018**;
- Updates on Tasks 1 & 2 reports of Lot 20 will then be published by end August-beginning of September 2018;
- November 2018: next Tasks 3-7 in the final draft report – by then input is most welcome, especially specific solutions to the issues raised;
- In February - March 2019: second Lot 20 stakeholder meeting, where remaining Tasks 3-7 will be discussed