



CEECCAP – Implementing EU Appliance Policy in Central and Eastern Europe

Summary of state national compliance and of the government activities

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- **National appliance labeling and efficiency legislation, comparison with the EU**

Lithuania as a new member of the European Union (EU) provides the driving force for harmonization of product related legislation on a national level with the EU internal market regulations and policies. The EU policy framework in the area of appliance energy efficiency is implemented by a combination of two elements: the EU Acquis and Negotiated Agreements.

Lithuania major attention is paid to the EU Acquis, which takes the following forms:

- regulations, which are binding and directly applicable in all Member states from the date of their coming into force in the area of appliance energy efficiency, this refers to the EC Regulation No. 2422/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community energy efficiency labeling programme for Office equipment;
- energy labeling: this area is based on a framework Directive (92/75/EEC), which provides a legal basis for energy labeling of house-hold appliances, requiring the manufactures and the retailers to attach an energy performance indicating label to appliances when displayed for sale;
- efficiency standards: Directives in this area prohibit sales of appliances, which fail to meet certain energy performance limits. Such Directives have been issued presently for refrigerators, freezers and their combinations (96/57/EC), boilers (92/42/EC) as well as ballast for fluorescent lighting (2000/55/EC).

Legal basis for the transposition of the energy labeling legislation in Lithuania includes:

- Law on Energy of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 56-2224; 2003, No. 69-3118);

- Part 4, Article 20: The imported, manufactured and sold domestic appliances 'which use electricity and other types of energy must have appropriate energy efficiency labeling.
- Resolution No. 300 of 27 February 2002 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of the Acquis Implementation Action Plan 2002 and the Law Approximation Action Plan of Lithuania's EU Accession Programme (the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis)” (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 25-910).
- Resolution No. 292 of 5 March 2003 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of the Acquis Implementation Action Plan 2003 and the Law Approximation Action Plan of Lithuania's EU Accession Programme (the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis)” (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 25-1019).

The EU labeling directives are also mentioned in other national laws, such as:

- Resolution No. 1487 of 22 December 2000 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of negotiation positions of the Republic of Lithuania in negotiations related to accessing the EU” (Official Gazette, 2000, No. 111-3593);
- Resolution No. 126 of 20 March 2002 of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of Criteria for provision of environmentally friendly sign to washing machines” (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 31-1177);
- Resolution No. 584 of 7 December 2001 of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of Procedure related to provision of environmentally friendly sign on products” (Official Gazette, 2001 No. 105-3775);
- Resolution No. 556 of 15 November 2001 of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding the Approval of Criteria for provision of environmentally friendly sign on electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations” (Official Gazette, 2001, No. 98-3501).

The Framework Directive 92/75/EEB in Lithuania was transposed in the national laws by Technical Regulation on the indication by labeling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources of household appliances approved by Resolution No. 163 of 10 May 2002 of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania „Regarding approval of the Regulations” (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 48-2135). This Technical Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation) is intended for the indication by labeling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other essential resources by household appliances, thereby allowing consumers to choose most energy-efficient appliances. The Regulation shall apply to all types of household appliances, even when they are sold for non-household uses. The purpose of the Regulation is the presentation of national measures on the publication of information on the consumption of energy and other essential resources, and additional information concerning certain types of household appliances, and the harmonization of the said measures with those applied in the European Union. Where, pursuant to the requirements of the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania drafted in accordance with Directive 86/594/EEC, the publication of information on the airborne noise emitted by household appliances is required, such information shall be given on the label following the requirements of the implementing regulations.

The Regulation shall be binding on all suppliers of household appliances and legal persons established by them in the European Union or the Republic of Lithuania, which are either

authorized representatives or distributors placing household appliances on the market of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Regulation shall apply to the following types of household appliances:

- refrigerators, freezers and their combinations;
- washing machines, dryers and their combinations;
- dishwashers;
- ovens;
- water heaters and hot-water storage appliances;
- lighting sources;
- air-conditioning appliances;
- further new types of household appliances the consumption of energy by which becomes important with technical progress, and energy efficiency of which must be improved.

All suppliers placing on the market the household appliances specified in the implementing regulations shall abide by the provisions of Regulation and shall supply a label in conformity with the requirements concerning labels and their information as set in Regulation and implementing regulations.

- **Evolution of the energy classes in the sales of main appliances**

The information, related household appliances rate, efficiency, sales evolution of the energy classes are still very poor in Lithuania. Only several studies, prepared by Lithuanian Energy Institute, at present time exist.

The 5 largest electricity using appliances in the residential sector in the table 1 are presented.

Table 1. Electricity consumption of appliances in the residential sector (2004)

No.	Equipment (lighting, PCs, cooling, etc.)	Average consumption [kWh/yr.]	Share in total [%]
1	Lighting	410	28
2	Refrigerators	310	20
3	Color TV sets	120	9
4	Washing-machines	150	8
5	El-stoves	1100	7

(Sources LEI)

Presented data shows, that the biggest share in the total electricity consumption compound lighting, refrigerators, washing-machines.

In Figures 1, 2 refrigerators and washing-machines penetration in households of Lithuania and other countries presented.

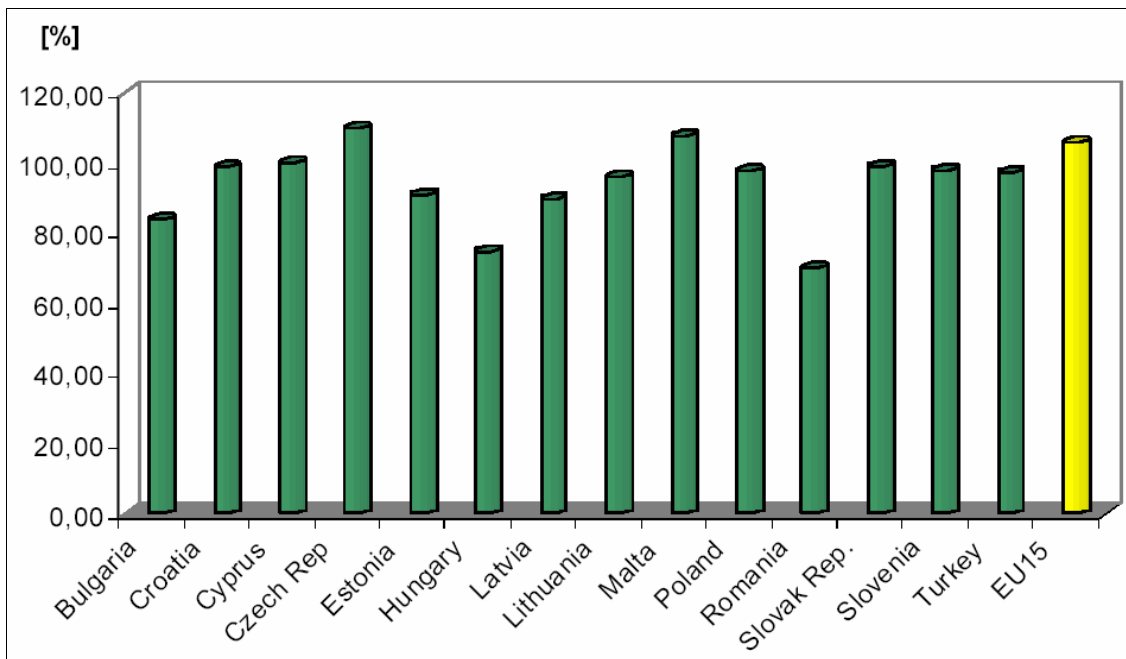


Fig. 1. Refrigerators penetration in households, 2004 (source JRC, LEI)

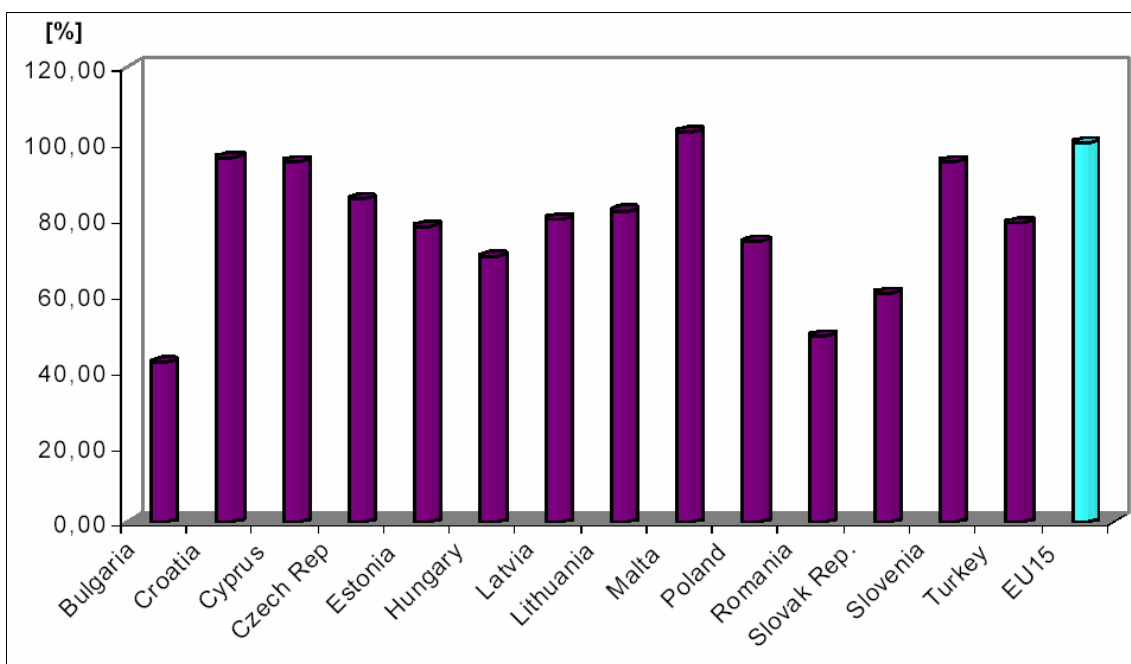


Fig. 2. Clothes washing machines penetration in households, 2004 (source JRC, LEI)

Data, presented in Fig. 1, 2 shows, that appliances penetration rate in Lithuanian households is less than average in EU.

Data about sales (regarding their energy classes) the main appliances in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6 are presented. Data received by interview with managers of 3 main (the biggest) Lithuanian shopping centers.

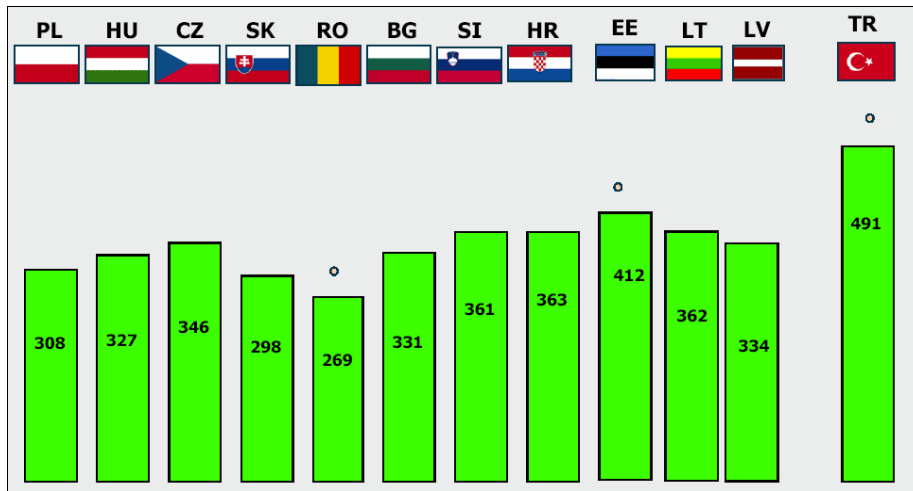


Fig. 3. Average price of refrigerators per country (euros), 2004 (source GfK)

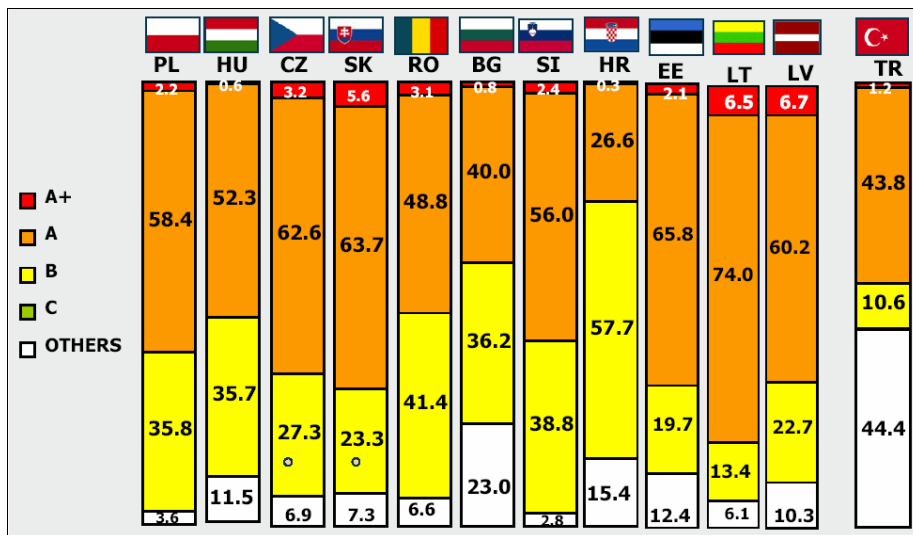


Fig. 4. Refrigerators sales units (%) by energy classes in 2004 (source GfK, LEI)

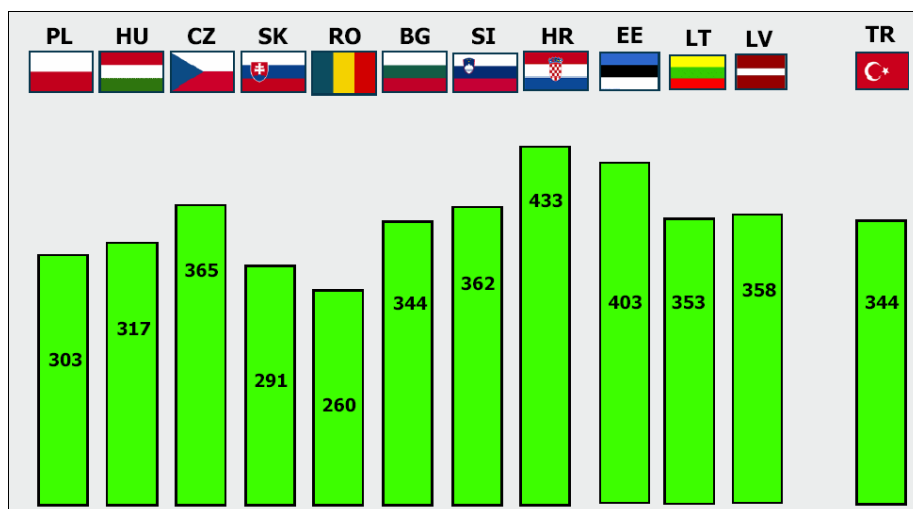


Fig. 5. Average price of washing machines per country (euros), 2004 (source GfK)

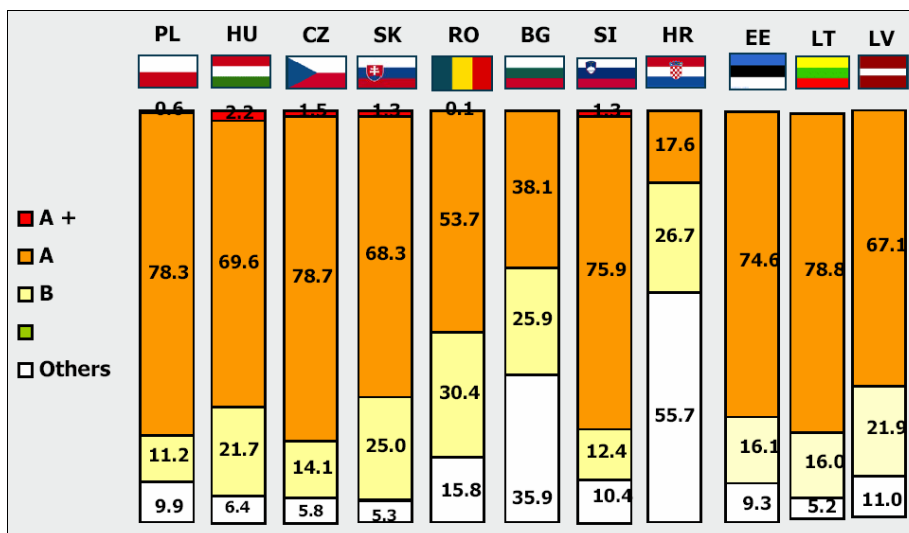


Fig. 6. Washing machines sales units (%) by energy classes in 2004 (source GfK, LEI)

Presented data shows that the sale of new refrigerators and washing machines compares well to EU15. Sales refrigerators and washing machines of A and B classes are about 85%. The differences consist in a lower market penetration of A⁺ class.

- **Main features of the national**

The main institutions involved in the implementation of the labeling scheme in Lithuania are:

- The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania has been designated to be responsible institution for drafting of the national laws that transpose provisions of the Directives on labeling.
- The State Non-food Inspectorate at the Ministry of Economy (market surveillance institution) of the Republic of Lithuania and the State Energy Inspectorate at the Ministry of Economy (state surveillance institution) are responsible for inspection of labeling.
- Compliance assessment procedures in accordance to the provisions of the regulations are carried out by institutions designated and notified by the Ministry of Economy or by institutions authorized by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania, which meet the requirements of the Rules for designation of the notified institutions of compliance assessment (Official Gazette, 1999, No. 62-2058; 2002, No. 111-4937).

For the enforcement of labeling responsible institutions will use various legal instruments. Persons guilty of an offence under the Regulation on labeling shall be answerable in accordance to the national laws practices.

The State Non-food products Inspectorate under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania shall operate in accordance to Resolution No. 170 of 15 May 2002 of the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania “Regarding rules of labeling and price indication for products (goods) sold in the Republic of Lithuania” (Official Gazette, 2002, No. 50-1927), which are currently being revised.

The State Energy Inspectorate under the Ministry of Economy shall carry out inspections in accordance with Resolution No. 4-270 of 3 July 2003 of the Minister of Economy of the

Republic of Lithuania “Regarding approval of procedures for control of state energy and users' energy equipment” (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 70-3199).

The Republic of Lithuania Code of Administrative Transgression of Law (Official Gazette, 2003, No. 74-3421) set second regulations:

Article 163. Selling of goods not labeled in accordance to the national laws/practices on the internal market and provision of inaccurate information by labeling of the goods.

Selling goods not labeled in accordance with national laws/practices on the internal market and providing inaccurate information by labeling of the goods -

By natural persons engaged in individual business shall be subject to caution or liable to a fine from twenty to one hundred Litas; by company employees shall be liable to a fine from one hundred to five hundred Litas and by officers shall be liable to a fine from five hundred to one thousand Litas.

Similar actions committed by a person, who has paid administrative penalty for offence indicated in Part 1 thereof -

natural person engaged in individual business shall be liable to a fine from fifty to two hundred Litas, company employees shall be liable to a fine from two hundred to one thousand Litas and officers shall be liable to a fine from one thousand to two thousand Litas.

Provision of inaccurate information by labeling of goods -

By natural persons engaged in individual business shall be subject to caution or liable to a fine from twenty to one hundred Litas, company employees shall be liable to a fine from one hundred to five hundred Litas and officers shall be liable to fine from five hundred to one thousand Litas.

Similar actions committed by a person, who has paid administrative penalty for offence indicated in Part 3 thereof -

natural persons engaged in individual business shall be liable to a fine from fifty to two hundred Litas, company employees shall be liable to a fine from two hundred to one thousand Litas and officers shall be liable to a fine from one thousand to two thousand Litas.

- **Main issues and problems**

In accordance to the Acquis Implementation Action Plan 2003 and the Law Approximation Action Plan of Lithuania's EU Accession Programme (the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis) legal approximation related to labeling is completed. Problems in relation to energy labeling in Lithuania are similar to problems of other countries. The biggest problem – not good economical situation in country. It is stopping renovation of household appliances process in country. Also, lack good promotion schemes, studies on influent of labeling on the energy saving. Lack of education in schools, universities. Lack information for public in shops, newspapers, TV and other.

CEECAP project is one from the very good measures in mentioned field. It will help and will stimulate promotion and dissemination European appliance efficiency and labeling policies, will stimulate information for the market about labels, standards and other appliance energy efficiency issues.

- **Experience with cooperation so far**

After meetings and presentations of CEECAP Project the main interest shows state institutions (Ministry of Economy, National Energy Agency) and the main retailers (the biggest shopping centers – “Senukai”, “Topo cenras”, “Maxima”).

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