



CEECCAP – Implementing EU Appliance Policy in Central and Eastern Europe

Summary of state national compliance and of the government activities

Prepared as Deliverable n. 4 of the CEECCAP project.

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April 2006

Content:

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

Main national legal requirements in terms of labelling, standardization and efficiency requirements, in comparison with EU are:

Act of 10 April 1997 Energy Law (with amendments)

Art. 52.2 of the act says that producers and importers of equipment offered on the market shall inform of their energy efficiency on labels and in technical specifications.

Ordinance of the Minister of Economy and Labour of 20 May 2005 on requirements concerning technical documentation, application of labels and technical specifications and specimens of labels.

The Ordinance concerns following appliances:

- refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof,
- washing machines,
- combined washer-driers,
- tumble driers,
- dishwashers,
- ovens,
- lamps,
- air conditioners.

This Ordinance implements within the scope of its regulation, the following Directives of the European Communities:

- Commission Directive 2002/40/EC of 8 May 2002 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric ovens;

- Commission Directive 2002/31/EC of 22 March 2002 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household air-conditioner;
- Commission Directive 98/11/EC of 27 January 1998 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household lamp;
- Commission Directive 97/17/EC of 16 April 1997 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household dishwashers;
- Commission Directive 96/60/EC of 19 September 1996 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household combined washer-driers;
- Commission Directive 95/13/EC of 23 May 1995 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric tumble driers;
- Commission Directive 95/12/EC of 23 May 1995 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household washing machines;
- Commission Directive 94/2/EC of 21 January 1994 implementing Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations;
- Council Directive 92/75/EEC of 22 September 1992 on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by household appliances.

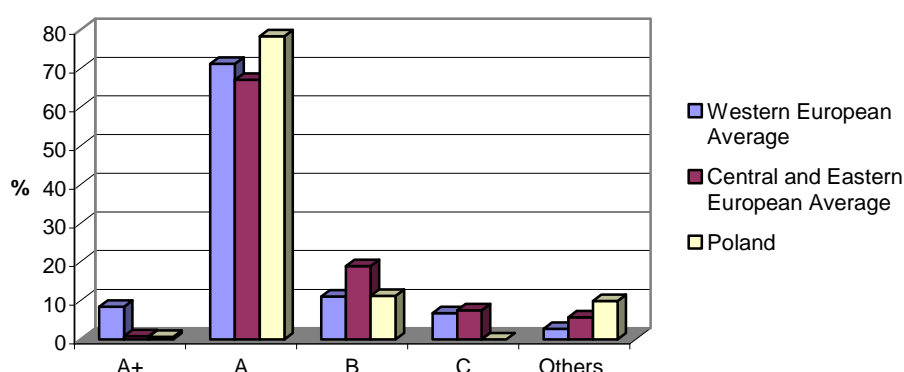
Act of 30 August 2002 on the system of evaluation of accordance (with amendments) as a base for implementation UE directives, i.a. Directive 96/57/EC.

Ordinance of the Minister of Economy, Labour and Social Policy of 2 December 2003 on requirements for the consumption of energy by cooling appliances

The Ordinance concerns refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof and implements Directive 96/57/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 September 1996 on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof.

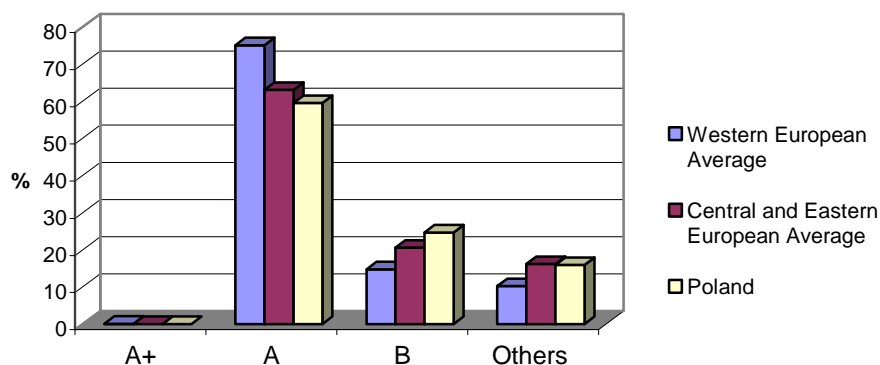
- **Importance of the energy class at the point of sale of the main appliances**

Sale of washing machines by energy class in 2004



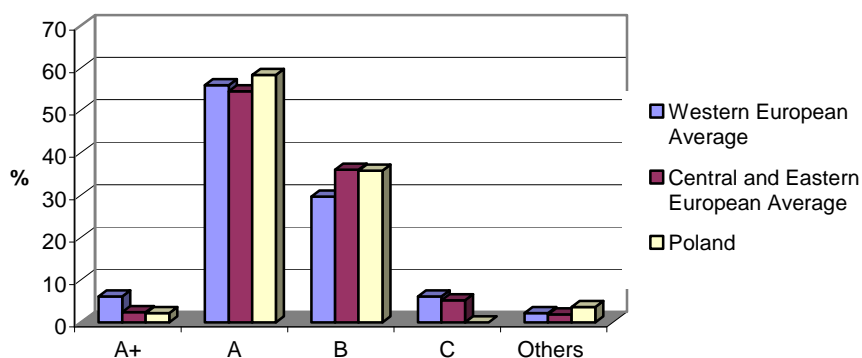
Sale of washing machines of class A+ in 2004 in Poland was 0,6% (below Western European average and Central and Eastern European average) and class A was 78,3%. Sale of class A+ and class A together was 78,9%. It is nearly Western European average (79,6%) and above Central and Eastern European average (67,9%).

Sale of dishwashers by energy class in 2004



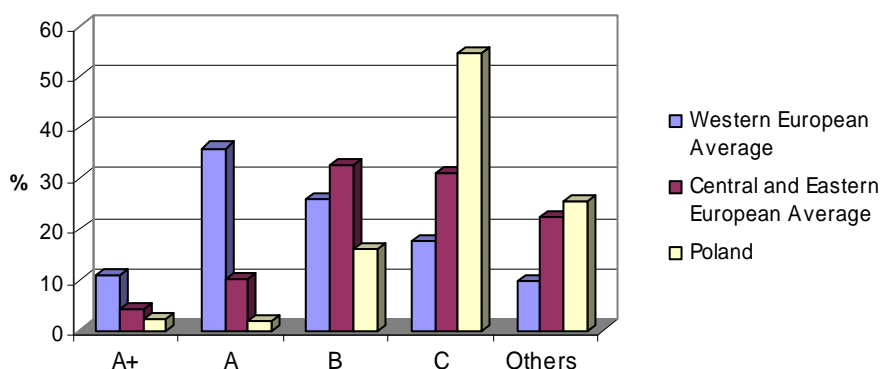
There was no sale of dishwashers of class A+ in 2004 in Poland. Sale of class A was 59,5%. It is below Western European average (75,2%) and below Central and Eastern European average (63,1%).

Sale of refrigerators by energy class in 2004



Sale of refrigerators of class A+ in 2004 in Poland was 2,2% (below Western European average and Central and Eastern European average) and class A was 58,4%. Sale of class A+ and class A together was 60,6%. It is nearly Western European average (62,0%) and above Central and Eastern European average (56,9%).

Sale of freezers by energy class in 2004



Sale of freezers of class A+ in 2004 in Poland was 2,2% (below Western European average and Central and Eastern European average) and class A was 10,0%. Sale of class A+ and class A together was 4,1%. It is much below Western European average (47,0%) and below Central and Eastern European average (14,3%). Majority of freezers sold in 2004 in Poland had class C (54,6%).

- **Main features of the national appliance label system (organizational system of verification, enforcement, market introduction, etc.)**

In Poland **Ministry of Economy** sets up the laws concerning labeling system. The Ministry gives acts and ordinances concerning energy management.

The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection implements the governmental policy of consumer protection. The primary objective of the OCCP in this area is to represent the public interest, i.e. to initiate administrative proceedings in case of practices infringing collective consumer interests.

The OCCP opines drafts of legislative acts and other legal documents ensuring that these suitably cover the interests of consumers. The Office also initiates legislative changes aimed at providing weaker market participants with the most comprehensive protection.

The OCCP cooperates with municipal and district consumer ombudsmen and non-governmental organisations financed by the State Budget (Consumer Federation, Association of Polish Consumers) that provide free of charge legal services in individual cases.

The Trade Inspectorate controls labels in shops and checks the accuracy of information on the labels. The Inspectorate has in its tasks also consumer guidance. It consist of Main Inspectorate, 16 Regional Inspectorates and 34 Representations of Trade Inspectorate. The Inspectorate has also a network of testing laboratories.

Consumer Federation is a non-governmental organization that initiates pro-consumer changes in legislation, works in standardization and certification commissions, creates consumer lobby to promote consumers' interests, seeking support for consumer protection policy among Parliament members and provides schools with consumer education programs.

Association of Polish Consumers is an expert group with no mass membership. The Association i.a. tests products and services, and publishes the results of tests, takes part in standardisation work and develops and promotes consumer education projects.

According to Polish law **manufacturers or importers** provide appliances with labels and technical specifications. The obligation of a **retailer** is to place labels on or near appliances in visible place.

- **Main issues and problems**

Labels are visible in Poland in large shops (appliance supermarkets) but not always in small shops. Information on the labels is very rarely controlled and appliances are not tested. Consumer awareness about how to use information from the labels is still insufficient.

CEECAP can help to call government's and controlling authorities' attention to labels. As a result of the project more controlling activities are expected. The project gives good knowledge for authorities, manufacturers and retailers about UE and national legislation (with current amendments) – a starting point to improve the labeling system and to implement UE directives.

- **Experience with cooperation so far**

So far consumer organizations and manufacturers show the main interest. KAPE cooperates with European Committee of Manufacturers of Domestic Equipment that started to realize an energy efficient appliances promoting project this year. KAPE is going to cooperate with the Committee to promote energy labels.

References:

The data of energy class importance for various appliances was taken from:

Matilde SOREGAROLI , GfK, Italy: “*Overview of sales and trends for main appliances in year 2004*”, Proceedings from JRC workshop, Tallinn 2005

<http://energyefficiency.jrc.cec.eu.int/pdf/Proceedings-worshop%20Tallinn2005/3%20Presentation%20Soregaroli-GfK.pdf>

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