



CEECAP – 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**

In relation to frame directive 92/75/EHS on energy labeling the Slovak Republic has accepted as other member EU States the measurement necessary for the directive fulfillment and it uses Oficiální prezentace RUSE pro návštěvníky, školy, širokou veřejnost. all ways to secure the directive obligation fulfillment of all suppliers and retailers. All necessary measurements are formally used to the labeling implementation in compliance with directive 92/75/EHS and to avoid of other labeling, symbols and signs.

The labeling implementation will be combined with educational and promotion campaigns. In the Slovak republic valid regulations relevant to Government orders dealing with energy labeling of household appliances are detailed described on the pages of the Ministry of Economy of SR (www.economy.gov.sk) as well as in the law 264/1999 of statute on technical product conditions and accordance considering, modification and law complementation in compliance with following directives.

Energy efficiency legislation

The Slovak legislative of energy labeling is based on the mandatory labeling according to EU Directive 92/75/EEC and energy efficiency standards for appliances according to EU Directive

96/57/EC. Furthermore, the act has adopted some of the SAVE Directive (93/76/EEC) requirements and is even more stringent regarding certain installations and appliances.

The directive 92/75/EHS forms the legal basis of household appliances labeling and set the retailers obligations to label the sale appliances with labels showing their energy efficiency.

The active measurements specify the concrete appliances labeling with regard to their energy consumption according the European testing standards.

Annexes to the decree specify the energy labeling procedures for different groups of appliances:

- Washing machines (law 178/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 13. March 2002)
- Tumble dryers (law 193/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 13. March 2002)
- Combined washer-dryers (law 210/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 13. March 2002)
- Refrigerators, freezers and their combinations (law 199/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 16. June 2004 changes and completes the previous act N.199/2002 of statute)
- Dishwashers (law 211/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 13. March 2002)
- Electric ovens (law 229/2003 of statute, Government act of SR from 11. June 2003)
- Household lamps (law 188/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 5. June 2003)
- Air-conditioning units (law 231/2002 of statute, Government act of SR from 5. June 2003)

Enforcement of the law

Article 7 of Directive 92/75/EEC states that “Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that all suppliers and dealers established in their territory fulfil their obligation under this Directive”.

As the part of project we analyse also the question of the legal obligation respect of distributors (retailers), suppliers (producers) and consumer rights.

The competent institutions in this area in SR are: Slovak Trade Inspection (the legislative has set the activity of cooperation and mutual information exchange between control organisations at internal market in compliance with the Manual of European commission on directive implementation based on new attitude also global one, as well as the cooperation with public administration organisations and cooperation based on consumer protection), Energy Inspection included to Ministry of Economy of Slovak Republic (according to §65 art.1 law N.656/2004 of the statute on energetic and some law changes, the State energetic inspection controls the respect of obligations of natural and legal entities).

• **Main features of the national appliance label system in Slovak Republic**

By the interview result analysis on all net levels (producers, distributors, retailers and consumers) we have come to the following conclusion:

The retailers and distributors took part on some workshops on labelling what helped them to understand better the area, its plans, aims and consumer message. The contemporary problems are mostly only technical, as non-translated materials into Slovak, incorrectly placed labels, and some producers mention the problem of high noise.

The aims and intentions of labelling area were and are mostly understandable, the situation of energy labelling effect is different (according to interview with distributors the customers do not understand its importance) – it can be understood as motivation for workshop preparation. The retailers have come to conclusion according to consumer questions that the consumers understand the labelling problematic only partially and they are not able to quantify the economy savings by the energy labelling – the information form one interesting source of

information and advertising area. The distributors and retailers think that the legislation of mentioned area takes care of obligations and rights of distributors as well as retailers and producers.

The respondents expect from measurements implementation for this area especially:

- better consumer orientation and continuous increase of awareness of consumer behaviour
- continuously also positive environmental influence

The brochures created during project are evaluated in a very positive way.

- **Main issues and problems**

The main issues related to the appliance labeling are to a large degree very similar with that of the issues and problems in other countries of the EU 15 region. In addition, due to the enlarging of EU in the year 2004, the experiences from the transformation process are also interesting for the countries yet to join the EU. Our knowledge of problematic and also the survey on label process in other member states have confirmed the fact that the following problems are valid for all of them and also for Slovak Republic:

- The process of implementing and updating the legislation related to energy labels took place in several steps. Therefore the newly labeled appliances always appeared problematic in terms of the presence of labels in the shops.
- Similarly to other countries, appliance labeling is more problematic in small shops (many of them with no central information distribution and difficult education possibilities), kitchen studios (concern about the design of mostly build-in appliances), and due to significant change of the personal occupancy by the shop assistants.
- The retailers very often show limited interest in using the labels in their own marketing promotion campaigns and consider them only as a legal requirement.
- The budget and staff capacities of the responsible government institutions is not high, due to lower priorities allocated to labeling and appliance efficiency on the central level and at the time of preparing annual budgets for these institutions.
- Individual promotional campaigns make profit from the knowledge of the appliance labels and use them for different purposes (individual logo for some efficient appliances in collaboration with an electric utility as a time-limited advertising campaign; A class of a “baking” performance of electric ovens of one manufacturer; the volunteer usage of labels for electric circulation pumps).
- Limited understanding of customers specially in small towns and villages, they do not fully understand labeling scheme and basic calculations for their own saving
- Still limited cooperation with retailers for more campaign to transfer message to customer and use this toll as a marketing opportunity for their biz.
- Customers are still more driven by price depend decision as categories described in labeling are too complicated for them to understand added value for customer

Some of these problems are widely recognized all along the EU, others are specific to the Central and Eastern European region, resulting from the late adoption of the legislation. They

are being addressed by the CEECAP project activities, both nationally and as a part of the international collaboration of partners taking part on the Ceecap project.

- **Experience with cooperation so far**

Our experience shows the label process is sufficient and efficient what we consider for a positive moment of the future development in the energy saving area important for environment. The label process of the electronic appliances follows all rules of EU. We control that the process has to be in compliance with European Union legislative. The distributors and retailers take part on workshops and training on energy labeling and they have evaluated the energy label contribution as positive fact. The consumers do not still realize sometimes the importance of the energy label, but the retailers and dealers are competent to inform them and provide them all necessary output necessary for environment effect.

The work conducted on the CEECAP project was partly funded by the European Commission. The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

- **Recommendation**

As awareness of labeling is still rather low comparing with legislation framework which is existing on satisfactory level we recommend to prepare public campaign which will touch wide spectrum of customers
This campaign should consist from several parts.

- TV campaign broadcasted during main TV time focused on - wide and simple oriented people
- Seminars in TV discussion about environment impact of labeling
- Education program for Universities and state offices