



Statement on the provision and display of UK Energy Labels in Ireland

Applies in the Republic of Ireland and the European Single Market

Nov 2021

Introduction

The purpose of this statement is to provide clear guidance to economic operators on the provision or display of UK energy labels in the Republic of Ireland and the European Single Market.

The provision or display of the UK energy label to consumers in Ireland and the European Single Market, is prohibited in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1369.

This includes provision or display of UK energy labels in Irish stores, on websites directed to consumers in Ireland, or with the product when supplied to customers in Ireland.

The provision or display of the UK energy label alongside the EU energy label is also prohibited.

Please note, this statement relates solely to the requirement for the use of energy labels in Ireland and the European Single Market. The appropriate Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) should be consulted in respect of the requirements for the use of energy labels in other jurisdictions, including Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

The EU and UK energy labels

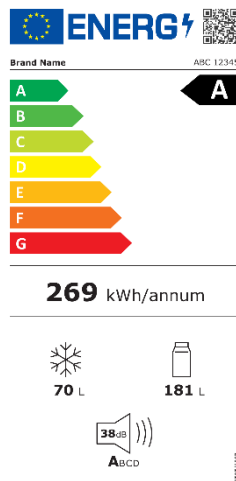
The EU energy label was adopted across Europe in the early 1990's and is now a widely recognised and successful means of providing useful information regarding the energy performance of a product to consumers.

In March 2021, the format of EU energy labels changed for certain product types, to reflect a rescaling of the relevant energy efficiency classes for these products.

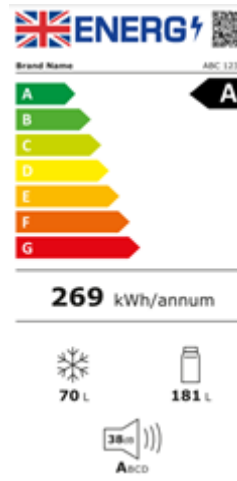
As part of the process of leaving the EU, the UK has maintained an energy labelling regime which, at present, largely mirrors that of the EU. This was facilitated through the “Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products and Energy Information (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (No. 539) and 2020 (no. 1528)”.

An example of a rescaled EU and UK energy label for a fridge freezer product is shown below.

EU energy label for a fridge freezer



UK energy label for a fridge freezer



There are currently two differences between a rescaled EU energy label and a rescaled UK energy label:

- The UK energy label displays the UK flag, while the EU energy label displays the EU flag
- The QR code for the EU energy label links to the European Product Database for Energy Labelling (EPREL) while the QR code on the UK energy label is directed to a product information sheet displayed on a publicly accessible website of the manufacturer's choosing. National Market Surveillance Authorities have access to EPREL to help verify that registered products comply with the EU Energy Labelling Regulation.

Similarly, for products that have not yet been subject to rescaling, the same differences in flag header apply, while the UK energy label contains English language references only.

It is important to note that EU energy labelling and UK energy labelling may further diverge in the future if the UK decides to follow different rules.

Relevant legislation

The specific requirements for use of the energy label are laid down in a number of legislative instruments, namely the Energy Labelling Framework Regulation 2017/1369 and the relevant supporting delegated acts, specific to individual product types.

Article 6 (c) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 requires that suppliers (i.e. manufacturers, authorised representative or importers) and dealers (i.e. retailers) of products to which the EU energy label relates:

“shall not provide or display other labels, marks, symbols or inscriptions which do not comply with the requirements of this Regulation and the relevant delegated acts, if doing so would be likely to mislead or confuse customers with respect to the consumption of energy or other resources during use”.

While the UK energy label remains largely inspired by the EU approach, the potential exists for consumers to be misled with respect to the consumption of energy during use, both now and in the future. The European Commission’s position is that the provision or display of the UK energy label in the European Single Market represents a non-compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Framework Regulation.

SEAI’s role relating to energy labelling

SEAI undertakes energy labelling inspections on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, who is the Market Surveillance Authority in respect of energy labelling.