Commission Regulation (EU) No 932/2012 of 3 October 2012 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to ecodesign requirements for household tumble driers (Text with EEA relevance)

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 932/2012

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products[(1)], and in particular Article 15(1) thereof,

After consulting the Ecodesign Consultation Forum,

Whereas:

(1) Under Directive 2009/125/EC, ecodesign requirements should be set by the Commission for energy-related products representing significant volumes of sales and trade, having significant environmental impact and presenting significant potential for improvement in terms of their environmental impact without entailing excessive costs.

(2) Article 16(2)(a) of Directive 2009/125/EC provides that the Commission should, as appropriate, introduce an implementing measure for domestic appliances, including household tumble driers.

(3) The Commission has carried out a preparatory study to analyse the technical, environmental and economic aspects of household tumble driers typically used in households. The study has been developed together with stakeholders and interested parties from the Union and third countries, and the results have been made publicly available.

(4) This Regulation should cover products designed for drying laundry in households.

(5) Household combined washer-driers have particular characteristics and should therefore be exempted from the scope of this Regulation.

(6) The environmental aspect of household tumble driers, identified as significant for the purposes of this Regulation, is energy consumption in the use phase. The annual electricity consumption of household tumble driers is estimated to have been 21 TWh in the European Union in 2005. Unless specific measures are taken, annual electricity consumption is predicted to be 31 TWh in 2020. The preparatory study shows that the energy consumption of products subject to this Regulation can be significantly reduced.

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(7) The preparatory study shows that requirements regarding other ecodesign parameters as referred to in Annex I, Part 1, to Directive 2009/125/EC are not necessary, as the energy consumption of household tumble driers in the use phase is by far the most important environmental aspect. In accordance with Article 6(2) of Directive 2009/125/EC, Member States shall not prohibit, restrict or impede the placing on the market and/or putting into service, within their territories, of household tumble driers on grounds of ecodesign requirements relating to those ecodesign parameters referred to in Annex I, Part 1, of that Directive for which this Regulation provides that no ecodesign requirement is necessary.

(8) The energy consumption of household tumble driers should be made more efficient by applying existing non-proprietary cost-effective technologies that can reduce the combined costs of purchasing and operating those products.

(9) The ecodesign requirements should not affect functionality from the end-user's perspective and should not negatively affect health, safety or the environment. In particular, the benefits of reducing energy consumption during the use phase should more than offset any additional environmental impacts during the production and disposal phases.

(10) The ecodesign requirements should be introduced gradually in order to provide a sufficient timeframe for manufacturers to redesign products subject to this Regulation. The timing should be such as to avoid negative impacts on the functionalities of equipment on the market, and to take into account cost impacts for end-users and manufacturers, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, while ensuring timely achievement of the objectives of this Regulation.

(11) Measurements of the relevant product parameters should be performed using reliable, accurate and reproducible measurement methods which take into account the recognised state-of-the-art measurement methods including, where available, harmonised standards adopted by the European standardisation bodies, as listed in Annex I to Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society services[(2)].

(12) In accordance with Article 8 of Directive 2009/125/EC, this Regulation should specify the applicable conformity assessment procedures.

(13) In order to facilitate compliance checks, manufacturers should provide information in the technical documentation referred to in Annexes V and VI to Directive 2009/125/EC in so far as that information relates to the requirements laid down in this Regulation.

(14) In addition to the legally binding requirements laid down in this Regulation, indicative benchmarks for best available technologies should be identified to ensure the wide availability and easy accessibility of information on the life-cycle environmental performance of products subject to this Regulation.

(15) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 19(1) of Directive 2009/125/EC,

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HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

1 This Regulation establishes ecodesign requirements for the placing on the market of electric mains-operated and gas-fired household tumble driers and built-in household tumble driers, including those sold for non-household use.

2 This Regulation shall not apply to household combined washer-driers and household spin-extractors.

Article 2

Definitions

In addition to the definitions set out in Article 2 of Directive 2009/125/EC, the following definitions shall apply for the purpose of this Regulation:

(1) ‘household tumble drier’ means an appliance in which textiles are dried by tumbling in a rotating drum through which heated air is passed and which is designed to be used principally for non-professional purposes;

(2) ‘built-in household tumble drier’ means a household tumble drier intended to be installed in a cabinet, a prepared recess in a wall or a similar location, requiring furniture finishing;

(3) ‘household combined washer-drier’ means a household washing machine which includes both a spin extraction function and also a means for drying the textiles, usually by heating and tumbling;

(4) ‘household spin-extractor’, also known commercially as ‘spin-drier’, means an appliance in which water is removed from the textiles by centrifugal action in a rotating drum and drained through an automatic pump and which is designed to be used principally for non-professional purposes;

(5) ‘air-vented tumble drier’ means a tumble drier that draws in fresh air, passes it over the textiles and vents the resulting moist air into the room or outside;

(6) ‘condenser tumble drier’ means a tumble drier which includes a device (either using condensation or any other means) for removing moisture from the air used for the drying process;

(7) ‘automatic tumble drier’ means a tumble drier which switches off the drying process when a certain moisture content of the load is detected, for example through conductivity or temperature sensing;

(8) ‘non-automatic tumble drier’ means a tumble drier which switches off the drying process after a predefined period, usually controlled by a timer, but which may also be manually switched off;

(9) ‘programme’ means a series of operations that are predefined and which are declared by the manufacturer as suitable for drying certain types of textile;

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(10) 'cycle' means a complete drying process, as defined for the selected programme;

(11) 'programme time' means the time that elapses from the initiation of the programme until the completion of the programme, excluding any end-user programmed delay;

(12) 'rated capacity' means the maximum mass in kilograms, indicated by the manufacturer in 0,5 kilogram increments of dry textiles of a particular type, which can be treated in a household tumble drier with the selected programme, when loaded in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;

(13) 'partial load' means half of the rated capacity of a household tumble drier for a given programme;

(14) 'condensation efficiency' means the ratio between the mass of moisture condensed by a condenser tumble drier and the mass of moisture removed from the load at the end of a cycle;

(15) 'off-mode' means a condition where the household tumble drier is switched off using appliance controls or switches accessible to and intended for operation by the end-user during normal use to attain the lowest power consumption that may persist for an indefinite time while the household tumble drier is connected to a power source and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; where there is no control or switch accessible to the end-user, 'off-mode' means the condition reached after the household tumble drier reverts to a steady-state power consumption on its own;

(16) 'left-on mode' means the lowest power consumption mode that may persist for an indefinite time after completion of the programme without any further intervention by the end-user besides unloading of the household tumble drier;

(17) 'equivalent household tumble drier' means a model of household tumble drier placed on the market with the same rated capacity, technical and performance characteristics, energy consumption, condensation efficiency where relevant, standard cotton programme time and airborne acoustical noise emissions during drying as another model of household tumble drier placed on the market under a different commercial code number by the same manufacturer.

(18) 'standard cotton programme' means the cycle which dries cotton laundry with an initial moisture content of the load of 60 % up to a remaining moisture content of the load of 0 %.

Article 3

Ecodesign requirements

The generic ecodesign requirements for household tumble driers are set out in point 1 of Annex I. The specific ecodesign requirements for household tumble driers are set out in point 2 of Annex I.

No ecodesign requirement is necessary regarding any other ecodesign parameter referred to in Annex I, Part 1, of Directive 2009/125/EC.

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Article 4

Conformity assessment

1 The conformity assessment procedure referred to in Article 8 of Directive 2009/125/EC shall be the internal design control set out in Annex IV to that Directive or the management system set out in Annex V to that Directive.

2 For the purposes of conformity assessment pursuant to Article 8 of Directive 2009/125/EC, the technical documentation shall include a copy of the calculations set out in Annex II to this Regulation.

Where the information included in the technical documentation for a particular household tumble drier model has been obtained by calculation on the basis of design or by extrapolation from other equivalent household tumble driers, or both, the technical documentation shall include details of such calculations or extrapolations, or both, and of tests undertaken by manufacturers to verify the accuracy of the calculations undertaken. In such cases, the technical documentation shall also include a list of all other equivalent household tumble drier models where the information included in the technical documentation was obtained in the same way.

Article 5

Verification procedure for market surveillance purposes

Member States shall apply the verification procedure described in Annex III to this Regulation when performing the market surveillance checks referred to in Article 3(2) of Directive 2009/125/EC for compliance with requirements set out in Annex I to this Regulation.

Article 6

Benchmarks

The indicative benchmarks for best-performing household tumble driers available on the market at the time of entry into force of this Regulation are set out in Annex IV.

Article 7

Revision

The Commission shall review this Regulation in the light of technological progress no later than five years after its entry into force and present the result of that review to the Ecodesign Consultation Forum. The review shall in particular assess the verification tolerances set out in Annex III and the efficiency of air-vented appliances.