EEPLIANT4 CONCERTED ACTION

Second Edition

NEWSLETTER

BRUSSELS, 16 NOVEMBER 2026

Every unit of energy counts, today more than ever. With energy costs putting pressure on households and businesses across Europe, no one wants to pay more than expected because products do not perform as their energy labels indicate. Reliable energy labels and effective market surveillance are essential to ensuring products deliver on their promises and meet EU requirements.

EEPLIANT4 brings market surveillance authorities (MSAs) across Europe together to check whether products comply with EU Ecodesign, Energy Labelling and Tyre Labelling rules through coordinated inspections and laboratory testing.

The first round of laboratory testing has now been completed for refrigerating appliances, commercial vehicle tyres and electronic displays. Work is progressing on cooking appliances, vacuum cleaners, off-mode/networked standby devices, air heating and cooling products, and solid fuel local space heaters (log burning and wood pellet stoves). Activities are also advancing on Customs cooperation, training and the development of digital tools. Every compliance check and all the work behind it brings us a step closer to a fairer EU market, where consumers can trust product information and businesses compete on equal terms.

Co-funded by the European Union

Ensuring Energy-Efficiency Compliance

PROSAFE Joint Actions Best Practice

WHAT THE TEST RESULTS SHOW SO FAR

The first round of laboratory testing has been completed for refrigerating appliances, Class 2 commercial vehicle tyres and electronic displays. Samples were selected using risk-based criteria, so the results should not be considered representative of the wider European market.

Refrigerating appliances

The first testing round covered 11 household refrigerators and 6 commercial refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function, such as beverage coolers and display cabinets. The initial results (i.e. single unit testing) indicated that **11 of the 17 models did not meet at least one tested requirement**. The issues identified include discrepancies compared to the declared values for energy consumption, storage temperatures, climate class and, for commercial appliances, total display area. Of the 15 models for which an energy class comparison was possible, 6 were assigned a lower class than declared.

These findings are provisional. MSAs are reviewing the laboratory test reports and technical documentation before making final compliance decisions and determining any necessary follow-up, potentially including testing three additional units.

The campaign has also highlighted a practical challenge. Commercial refrigeration products are often custom-made, produced in small quantities and sold through B2B channels, making it difficult for MSAs to obtain samples for verification testing.

Electronic displays

The project analysed over 11,000 EPREL records before selecting 29 electronic displays for document inspection and 18 for laboratory testing. Tested samples comprised 15 computer monitors and 3 digital signage displays.

Provisional results from the initial testing indicated that **10 of the 18 models failed at least one test parameter**.

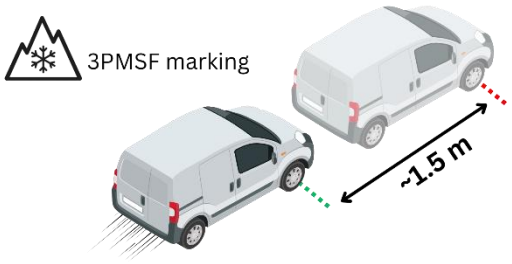
Of the 17 displays assessed, 5 were found to have a lower energy efficiency class than indicated on their label. No display achieved a higher class than declared.

The responsible MSAs are reviewing the findings to finalise their assessments and decide on any follow-up, including the possible testing of three additional units. The campaign also highlighted recurring challenges with product classification, declared values, technical documentation and identifying the responsible economic operator.

Commercial vehicle tyres

Fourteen Class 2 tyre models for vans and other light commercial vehicles were tested for rolling resistance and wet grip. Six tyres displaying the Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake (3PMSF) symbol were also tested for snow performance. **Eleven models passed all applicable initial tests, while 3 failed to meet one test parameter**.

Of those three, one regular tyre recorded rolling resistance values just outside the applicable verification tolerances, while two snow tyres failed to meet the minimum snow performance threshold. For these two tyres, the braking distance on snow was approximately 1.5 metres longer when decelerating from 25 to 10 km/h.



The campaign also identified broader questions about the evidence used to support tyre labels. Type-approval may rely on testing the worst performing tyre within a family of tyre sizes, whereas the label is intended to reflect the performance of the individual tyre model placed on the market. As a result, type-approval test results may not be a suitable technical basis for determining the label class of each individual tyre size in the family.

Initial testing also raised questions about the performance, ageing and replacement criteria of the Standard Reference Test Tyre. This reference tyre provides the benchmark for wet grip and snow performance testing, so its condition can affect the reliability and comparability of results. The findings were shared with the Tyres ADCO, DG ENER and the relevant standardisation bodies to inform future discussions on whether current requirements and test methods need clarification or improvement.

EVERY ENERGY LABEL COUNTS

An energy label is only useful if consumers can find it and trust the information it provides. Despite years of efforts to improve product compliance, EEPLIANT4 inspections show that required product information is still not always available or displayed correctly.

Checks for solid fuel local space heaters found issues on 29 of 34 websites and 67 of 84 product pages — mainly missing product information sheets and missing or incorrect energy labels. MSAs are currently contacting the relevant economic operators to request corrective action.

For refrigerating appliances, initial checks found differences in the online information shown for selected products across several national versions of a major online marketplace. Checks are now being extended to other national websites to establish the extent of this issue.

Inspection results are being consolidated for 35 refrigerating appliances and 29 computer monitors and digital signage displays.

MORE PRODUCT CAMPAIGNS UNDER WAY

A second round of inspections and testing is planned for refrigerating appliances, tyres (Class 3) and electronic displays in 2027. Work on the remaining product groups continues, including product screening, document and label checks, and testing.

Cooking appliances: More than 130 ovens, hobs and range hoods have been screened. Document inspections and preparations for laboratory testing of over 100 models are under way.

Vacuum cleaners: 131 models have been screened, with 67 selected for document inspection. The laboratory testing phase is set to begin shortly.

Off-mode/networked standby: 80 products have been selected for document checks, covering household, office, connected and motor-operated equipment. Preparations for the tendering of laboratory testing services are under way.

Air heating and cooling: MSAs have nearly completed market analysis and product screening under the applicable Ecodesign requirements. The procurement of laboratory testing services is under way.

Solid fuel space heaters: Screening of 111 models has been completed and 51 have been selected for document inspection. Laboratory testing is under way for 24 log burners and pellet stoves.

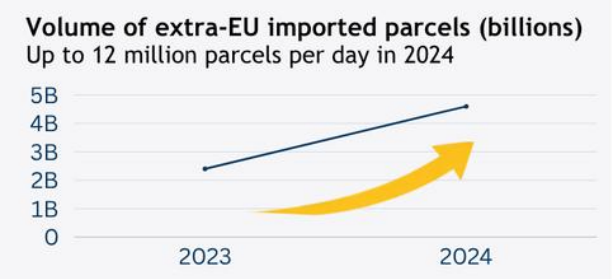
STRONGER MSAs, BETTER COOPERATION

Effective market surveillance takes more than product inspections and testing. It also depends on expertise, practical tools and close cooperation between authorities.

EEPLIANT4 has identified four priorities for MSA training and guidance: online compliance assessment, effective use of Information and Communication System on Market Surveillance (ICSMS), laboratory procurement and testing, and the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation. The first two study visits took place in Ireland (19-20 October 2026, (photo) and the Netherlands (3-4 November 2026). Two more visits are planned in Poland and Sweden.

Moreover, the project is developing twelve practical factsheets to help MSAs address new and recurring market surveillance challenges. Topics include obtaining representative samples, testing large or complex products, tracing economic operators, checking technical documentation, using EPREL effectively and assessing products when samples are difficult to obtain.

Cooperation with Customs is also progressing. Authorities in seven EU countries have agreed to take part in a joint inspection pilot in 2027 covering refrigerating appliances, tyres and products subject to networked standby requirements. The pilot will test practical ways for MSAs and Customs to identify potentially non-compliant products before they enter the EU market.



Finally, EEPLIANT4 is defining the next stage of a web crawling tool to support online market surveillance. The aim is to reduce manual work and help MSAs identify missing or inconsistent information across online shops and marketplaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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