

# The new EU energy label

Information for households in Malta

One of the main aims of the EU Energy Label is to help households to make informed choices about the purchase of energy-consuming appliances.

All manufacturers and retailers in Europe must provide consumers with information about the energy efficiency of certain household electrical appliances such as fridges, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, light bulbs, etc.

The label provides clear and easily recognisable information about the energy consumption and performance of products and must be attached visibly to new appliances displayed for sale. An important part of an energy label is the energy efficiency rating scale, which provides a simple index of the product's efficiency.

A detailed change of legislation undertaken in 2010 resulted among others in a new graphic design and content of the energy label for different appliance types, and an energy label for televisions as a new product category.

**The main changes with regard to the new energy label are:**

- The label design has been revised. A language neutral version with icons was introduced. In several product groups, additional classes ranging from A+ to A+++ have been

### The old energy label

### The revised EU energy label

Common elements displayed on the label are:

- Suppliers name and model identifications
- Additional energy classes A+, A++, A+++
- Annual energy consumption in kWh
- Pictograms highlighting various appliance characteristics and its performance

**Product Group Specific Information (Pictograms)**

	<b>Refrigerators, Freezers and Combinations</b>
Specific information on the label includes:	
	Sum of storage volume of all frozen food storage compartments
	Sum of storage volume of all storage compartments without a star rating



es will dry faster.  
• Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you run it. A full load is more energy efficient than two half loads.

**Washing machine**

introduced besides the original A to G classification

• Energy Labels are being extended to more product groups such as TVs. Boilers and water heaters, and vacuum cleaners are expected to follow in the coming years. A legal basis has been provided for extending the labelling to “energy relevant” products such as windows or wall insulation.

• The new labels come in one piece and combine label and product information

• Measuring methods and evaluation criteria for product groups are harmonised across Europe

• Implementing measures now take the form of direct EU regulations. They no longer have to be transposed into national law by Government.

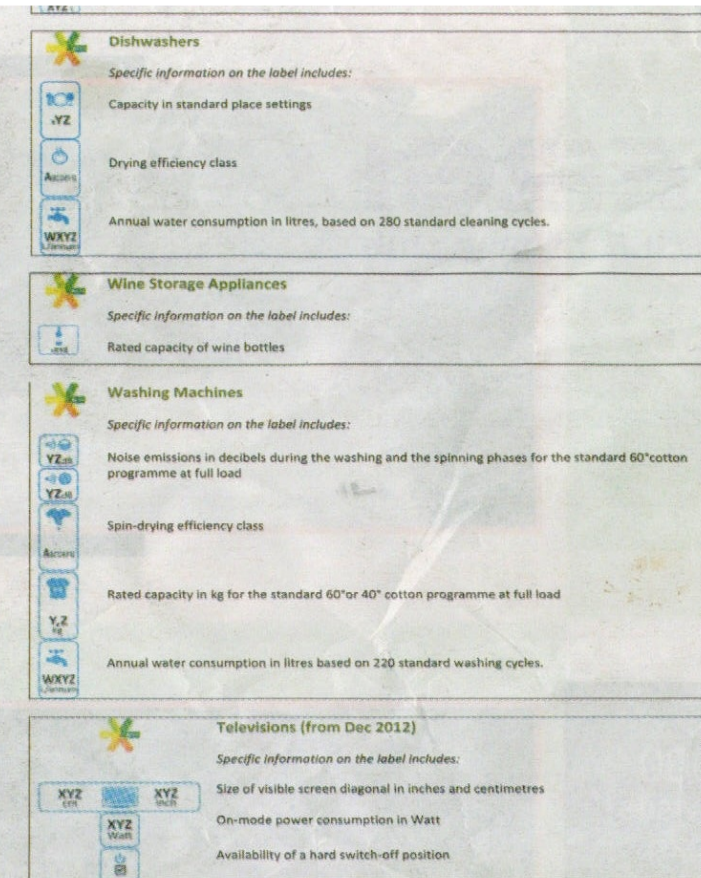
• Classification criteria for products, which were partly very outdated, are adapted to technological progress and future tightening of the criteria is envisaged.

### The old and new energy label compared

The new label will be mandatory for the new products placed on the market from the end of 2011. This means that at least for some time models with the old or the new label will be seen in the same shop. In fact, all products placed on the market before the new label has become mandatory are allowed to bear the previous label.

On the “old” energy label household appliances were rated ‘A’ to ‘G’. But manufacturers’ investment in research and development soon meant that all of the equipment clustered at the very top of the range and were all ‘A’ rated. The revised system allows more flexibility — with seven grades shown which may start at A or A+++ or somewhere in between. The most energy efficient are still marked with a dark green arrow, and the least with a dark red arrow allowing quick comparisons to be made.

The average energy a product uses



is also shown in figures. This may be indicated as the energy consumption for a whole year or for a single washing cycle or use. The Energy consumption is displayed in kWh (one unit of electricity in Malta currently costs 17 cents for an average household). This allows you to do a quick calculation by multiplying the kWh by the number of uses and by 17 cents to get an idea of what the electricity for a household appliance will cost you over a year. Of course the result will only be approximate as the tests are run under laboratory conditions and may not represent how you use appliances in your own home.

### Other appliances carrying the EU energy label

Appliances covered include Electric

ovens, washer-dryers and tumble dryers, energy-saving light bulbs, air conditioners some of which may still carry an old label at the time of writing. In future, even more products will have an energy label including vacuum cleaners, boilers and water heaters.

For more information visit: [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/labelling/labelling\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/labelling/labelling_en.htm)

### Here are some further tips how you can save energy in the household by using your appliances wisely:

#### Refrigerator

• When buying a new refrigerator or combination, keep in mind that the lowest energy class for this appli-

ance type available on the market as of November 2011 is ‘A’. You will not find appliances with an energy efficiency class of ‘B’ or ‘C’ on the market anymore. Always opt for a higher efficiency class such as ‘A++’ or ‘A+++’. An A++ energy class refrigerator is at least 40% more efficient compared to A class refrigerator.

• Don’t set your refrigerator or freezer too cold. This will create excessive moisture and ice build-up and consume more electricity to sustain the lower temperatures.

• Regularly defrost freezers; frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don’t allow frost to build up more than one quarter of an inch.

• Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment, the seal may need replacing, or you might consider buying a new more energy efficient unit.

• Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder. Also, don’t put warm or hot food straight into the freezer - let it cool down first.

• Each time you open the door on the refrigerator, up to 30% of the cooled air can escape. Therefore, pay attention to open the door once and bring out or put in all the items required at one time instead of opening the door multiple times.

• Leave adequate ventilation space at the back and top of your fridge or freezer.

#### Dishwasher

• Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher’s drying cycle. If you don’t have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dish-

• Don’t over-spin clothes. Our favorable climate allows air drying in the sunshine so if possible use a low spin speed setting. This will save on the energy consumption of the machine.

• Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.

• Fill the machine to its capacity. A full load of washing is more energy efficient than two half loads.

### The Come On Labels Project (Common appliance policy – All for one, One for all – Energy Labels)

The *Come On Labels* project aims at summarising the best European experience related to the energy labelling of appliances and supporting the proper implementation of the new labelling scheme. Its goal is to enhance the visibility and credibility given to the EU energy label and to improve the market for labelled products. The project started in December 2010 and will run until May 2013. The project partners will collect examples of best practice in their countries and will distribute the information across Europe. At the same time, they will identify the most problematical elements of label dissemination and control and will make efforts to improve the actual situation by working with local stakeholders and responsible organisations: retailers, consumers, manufacturers and the relevant Member State authorities.

For more information about the EU energy label visit: [www.come-on-labels.eu](http://www.come-on-labels.eu)

You can also contact the team at *Projects in Motion* via email on: [info@pim.com.mt](mailto:info@pim.com.mt) or telephone on 2142 0852 to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the new EU energy label.

