

## Summary of Residential Appliances Standards & Labelling Workshop to strengthen the Minimum Energy Performance Standards

### Introduction and Progress to Date

The S&L Project Manager, Theo Covary, welcomed all the participants and explained the objectives of the workshop. The agenda was presented and adopted. Presentations were made by the following individuals, as their presentations are attached so no further detail is provided here.

1. Stephane de la Rue du Can – Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: ***South Africa S&L Program Impact Assessment***
2. Mike Scholand – CLASP: ***Implementation of MEPS in Europe***
3. Mogomotsi Motaung – SABS Standards: ***Process to update standards and introduce new standards***
4. Sihle Qwabe – SABS Testing: ***S&L Project Update***
5. Millicent Masisi – NRCS: ***Update on Product Registration Process***
6. Patsy Andrews – NRCS: ***Implementation Approach Energy Efficiency Regulations***

The presentations were followed by a short word from the Department of Trade Industry and Competition (DTIC) and the Department of Minerals Resources and Energy (DMRE) who confirmed Government's support for the project and recognised its importance for its contribution to towards reducing residential electricity consumption, peak electricity demand during the ongoing electricity supply shortages and its contribution towards the national greenhouse gas emission targets.

### Revision of MEPS

The following table provides a summary of the outcomes of the second session which addressed the strengthening of the MEPS – To be read in conjunction with the presentation made by TC

| Appliance                                | Current level | Improved level | Proposed Start Date | Additional notes  |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Standby power for Audio Visual equipment | 1 Watt        | 0.5 Watt       | 2021                | Introduction of MEPS and labelling for televisions will form part of a separate process.  |
| Washing Machines                         | A             | A+             | 2022                | There was some confusion as to whether top loader washing machines are included in the standard. It is confirmed that they are included and that as per VC9008 front and top loader washing machines are required to have a valid Letter of Authorisation (LoA) from the NRCS before they can enter the market. The MEPS for both types of washing machines is level A. |

| Appliance  | Current level         | Improved level               | Proposed Start Date | Additional notes  |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Tumble dryers  | D                     | C                            | 2021                | To encourage consumers to shift from conventional resistance heating to more efficient heat pump technology. The S&L project office, at the request of the industry, has agreed to investigate how consumers can be encouraged to shift to HP in future. Test standards would need to be aligned.   |
| Refrigerators  | B                     | A+                           | 2022                | Noted that Europe had already moved to A+ in 2014.  |
| Freezers   | C                     | A                            | 2022                | Currently at level C. Market has spontaneously shifted to B, with Cs no longer available on retailer floors. Agreed Class A by 2022 and A+ by 2026.   |
|  | -                     | A+                           | 2026                | May be able to move a year earlier i.e. A+ 2025 (will be investigated).   |
| Ovens  | Sm/Med: A<br>Large: B | Large to increase to A       | 2021                | Small and medium ovens will remain at A   |
| Air conditioners   | B                     | Not decided                  | -                   | Recommendation split systems to move to Class A by 2021. Currently already an A in EU. Concern related to no local manufacturing therefore difficult for the workgroup to concur. Objections were invited if factories raised significant concerns. regarding flammable gases used to improve efficiency. No decision taken.  |
|  |                       |                              |                     | Exemption on window and portable systems which were identified as a weakness in the VC which was being exploited by industry. NRCS confirmed that the SABS TC workgroup has corrected the terminology in the revisions made VC and standard and that this is no longer an issue. Concerns were raised – to be confirmed. Still have to look at standards more carefully, but not part of this change. Will be included in cooling study. Note concern regarding absence of a testing facility in SA.  |
| Expanded scope for standby power to include all appliances | Not required          | Not decided (1Watt proposed) | 2021/22             | additional consideration. In Europe it is a horizontal regulation that cuts across all appliances. Proposed introduction of a cap at (e.g.) 1W for appliances that are not network/wifi enabled introduced by 2021/22. This will introduce market signal that can be tailored in future to differentiate between appliance types and functionality linked to standby power. Further work required to consider best practice. Workshop attendees objected to the proposal unless it is fully informed. Invite inputs from the group / industry associations to confirm a reasonable level e.g. 1Watt or alternate level proposed/required. Theo will follow up with participants. Note that it is raised, on the radar and industry feedback is invited. |

The topic of the energy label was then discussed. The project is undertaking research to update the label in line with the progress made over the last few years. There are three primary drivers for this: 1) A QR code is to be added to allow consumers and the regulator immediate access to the online registration database; 2) To assess the viability of replacing the text on the label with infographics to make it more accessible to all consumers, so as to accommodate the diversity within South Africa and specifically multiple languages and levels of education; and 3) To rescale the energy classes in line with the developments in the EU who are removing the A+, A++ and A+++ classes and reverting to the original A-G scale. Two presentations were made:

1. Mike Scholand – CLASP: Rescaling Energy Labels in Europe
2. Theo Covary – S&L Project Manager: South Africa’s Energy Label

## Conclusion and Outcomes

1. It was agreed that the NRCS would proceed with drafting the amendments to VC9008 as per the above, with the exception of AC's.
2. The S&L project manager (TC) raised the concern that the VC9008 is referencing national standards which are in some instances are up to three version out of date. TC, supported by the SABS standards division, would evaluate the appropriateness of continuing to reference the current national standards and communicate their recommendations to industry. TC stated that the responsibility of ensuring that the most up to date and appropriate standards being used by the programme does not lie solely with government and industry must participate more actively. Industry have an obligation to participate in the Standards Technical Committee meetings, and if they are not able or willing should do so through the industry associations, but many are doing neither. TC went on to state that out of date standards has the potential to increase operational costs for the industry - for imported products it may mean that additional testing is needed to meet specifications of the old standard which have been removed or changed in the newer version. For local manufacturers their products may not be accepted in international markets with a report that tested to an out of date standard
1. TC informed the participants that the DMRE and DEFF are developing a national cooling plan, which combines the objectives of using lower global warming potential refrigerants and energy efficiency. A decision on the MEPS revision will be announced in due course.
2. Industry proposed that SA should adopt the terminology being used by the EU to assist them in having a better understanding of