



Brussels, 25. June 2014

ATLETE II Project test results point to compliance of the washing machines with EU Ecodesign and Energy Labelling requirements.

Project demonstrates unique benefits of pan-EU compliance verification and of the importance of the European Commission's financial support.

The "*Appliance Testing for Washing Machines Energy Label and Ecodesign Evaluation*" ATLETE II project has randomly tested 50 washing machines to verify their compliance with Energy Labelling and Ecodesign legislation requirements. Testing has focused not only on pure technical parameters but also energy label declarations, information provided to consumers in instruction booklets and any other mandatory product information that is provided to consumers.

In summary, the results identified are:

- 100% compliance rate with the energy efficiency class and energy consumption declarations for the Energy Label;
- 100% compliance rate with energy and water consumption Ecodesign minimum requirements;
- 92% overall compliance rate for functional performance class and parameters;
- 84% overall compliance of the product fiche and Ecodesign-requested information availability and proper format;
- 64% compliance with the requirement to indicate the standard programme on the machine;
- 38% compliance rate for the Ecodesign-requested information to be provided in the booklet of instructions;
- 30% overall compliance rate when including all individual parameters.

The ATLETE II project has verified the degree to which energy labels affixed to washing machines that were made available to consumers for purchase within the Single European Market, were correct and provided accurate information about the technical specificities of the appliance, including their energy efficiency and functional performance.

Consumers across Europe can therefore be confident about the technical and performance information provided when making purchases of this type of appliance. The need for further improvement will be worked on by project partners in the area of information to be provided by manufacturers.

These are the main findings to come out of a two-year process of pan-EU compliance verification of Energy Labelling and Ecodesign Regulations. The Project has been executed by eleven member strong Project Consortium. The Consortium consists of energy Agencies, a household appliance manufacturer Association, market surveillance Authority, consumer Organisations, University and independent experts.

A number of models have not passed the verification procedure set by the Project: some models tested failed to comply with one of the technical parameters, others failed to comply due to the absence of mandatory information, that should be made available to consumers prior to purchase, or to provide it in a requested format. Compliance verification results were immediately communicated to market surveillance Authorities where the appliances were available for purchase, and a number of models were made compliant through a remedy action by individual manufacturers.



The integral test results of the project are released today (25th June 2014) on line and during the Project's Final Conference, taking place within European Union's Sustainable Energy Week.

The full testing results, including test reports for individual models tested for the project can be consulted on the project website www.atlete.eu/2.

Said Paolo Falcioni, CECED Director General and project consortium member: "the project demonstrated that a coordinated effort by a small and dedicated team is very effective in providing market surveillance authorities with reliable test results. The project is a good model for compliance checking in the European single market."

Karolina Petersson, project manager from the Swedish Energy Agency, the national market surveillance Authority, said "This type of pan-European tests are really interesting from a market surveillance perspective. Individual authorities can never monitor the whole EU-market in this way. We have communicated the test results from the ATLETE II project to market surveillance authorities across EU, and received good response."

Notes for editors:

ATLETE II project in a nutshell:

- ATLETE II is a multi-partner project with eleven project consortium members
- The project started in May 2012 and is due to be completed in October this year
- ATLETE II concentrated on checking the compliance of washing machines with the relevant provisions of EU Energy Labelling and Ecodesign legislation.
- Specific models were chosen for testing via a transparent selection process involving all known manufacturers and conducted by a notary. Appliances were selected on the basis of the company's market share and the product's availability in specific markets.
- The following parameters were tested: energy consumption, water consumption, washing performance, spinning performance, spin speed, load capacity, power consumption and duration of off-mode and left-on mode, Ecodesign minimum requirements, product specific requirements and information requirements.
- Results were communicated to the individual company responsible for each washing machine model, to market surveillance Authorities where the appliances were available, and are now becoming fully publicly available.

List of project partners:

ISIS – Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems - Italy
CECED – European Committee of Domestic Equipment Manufacturers - EU
ENEA – Italian National Agency for new Technology, Energy and Sustainable Development - Italy
SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center – Czech Republic
ADEME – French Environment and Energy Management Agency – France
ECOS – European Environmental Citizens Organisation for Standardisation - EU
AEA - Austrian Energy Agency - Austria
University of Bonn - Germany
SEA - Swedish Energy Agency - Sweden
ECEEE – European Council for an Energy Efficient Economy - EU
ICRT – International Consumer Research & Testing - EU

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Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe
Programme of the European Union

ATLETE II project has been supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.