BAM
Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung

Sicherheit in Technik und Chemie

ECEEE Summer Study 2019 - Panel 9 - 2019-06-07

ONE STEP BACK, TWO STEPS FORWARD – RESOURCE EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ECODESIGN

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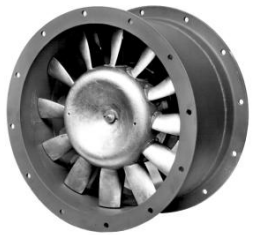
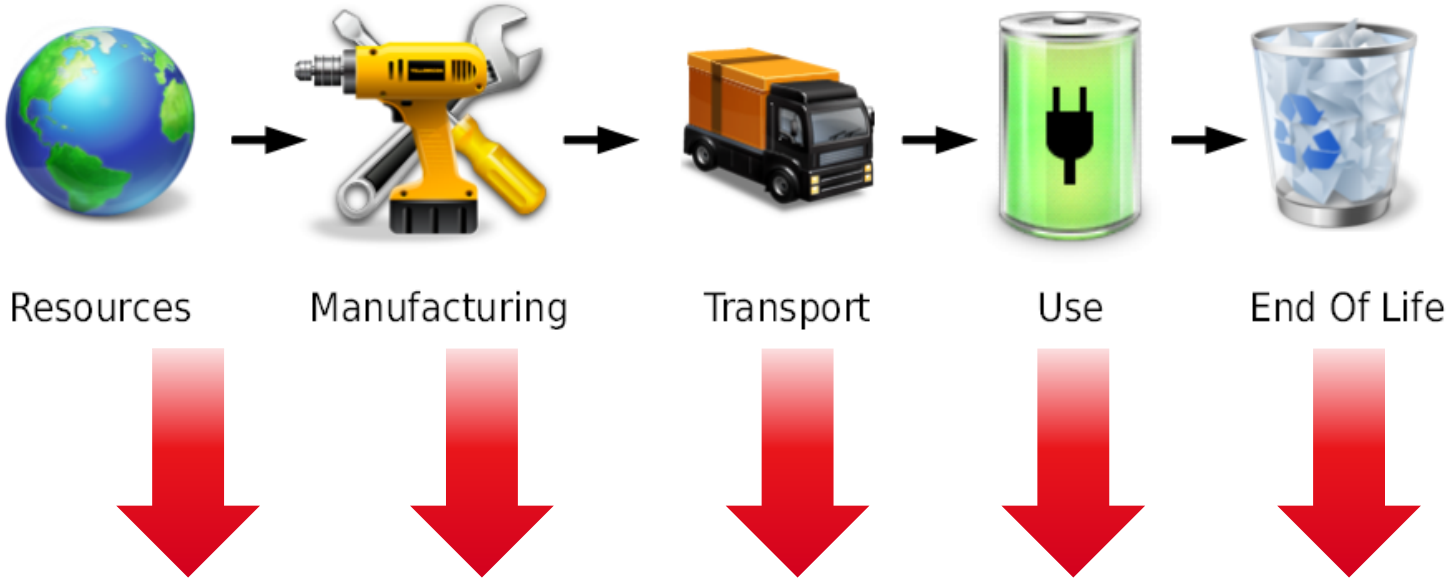
Section S.4 Ecodesign and Energy Labelling

Regulated Products in Ecodesign (Selection)



2009 2011 2013 2015…

EU Ecodesign directive - 2009/125/EC

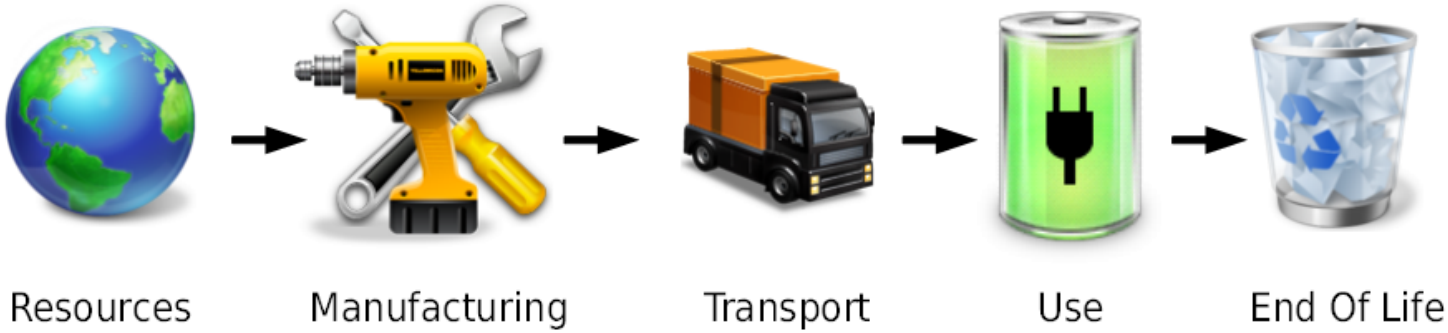


Preparatory studies conduct a simplified life cycle assessment on a „base case“ product.

MEErP aggregates 8 „Eco-Impacts“ as indicators

Grafik: (gpl) Sergio Lopez, Crystal Project, Oxygen Team, WebIconSet.com

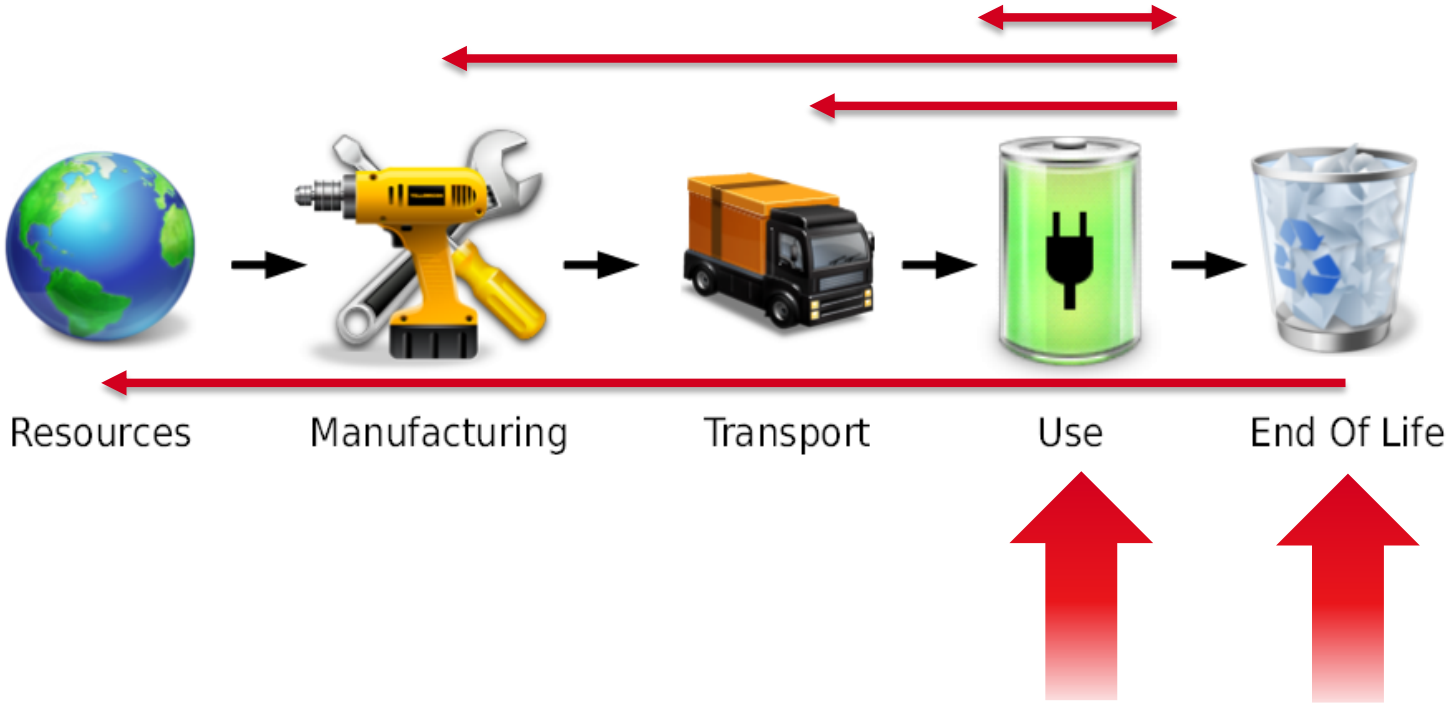
EU Ecodesign directive - 2009/125/EC
Situation until 2017



Most actual requirements cover energy efficiency in the use phase!

Grafik: (gpl) Sergio Lopez, Crystal Project, Oxygen Team, WebIconSet.com

EU Ecodesign directive - 2009/125/EC
Resource Efficiency requirements introduced



Durability and Repairability

Reuseability of Components or Products

Recycleability

Grafik: (gpl) Sergio Lopez, Crystal Project, Oxygen Team, WebIconSet.com

EU Policy Commitment

Report on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan (2017)

"…Ecodesign can also have an important contribution in creating a more circular economy. While **ecodesign measures have so far mainly focused on energy efficiency**, in this working plan, the Commission undertook to also explore more systematically the possibility to establish product requirements relevant for the circular economy such as **durability, reparability, upgradeability, design for disassembly, information, and ease of reuse and recycling**. This will be undertaken both for new product groups and for reviews of existing product-specific measures, and will bring benefits throughout the value chain. …"

COM (2017) 33 final

Supplemented by
Standardization request M/543

Good Ideas –
but beware of side effects (1)

Computer Servers: proposed information requirements to encourage recovery / re-use“

Content of Co, Nb, Pd … quantitatively to 0.1 mg

-> how to enforce that?

pictures: upper right, lower left BAM; lower right: C. Wimmer (CC BY-SA 3.0 AT)

Good Ideas –
but beware of side effects (2)

Production phase – possible requirements

Example: Minimum recycled content

Proven as a voluntary commitment but:

How to set a legal requirement (appropriateness, ambition)?

What if the quality recyclate runs out?

How to enforce? Not always measurable in a product sample!

Enforcement via certification?

Good Ideas – (and the need for speed)
new legal requirements

products able to be dismantled with commonly available tools

Information for repairers

availability of spare parts

maximum delivery time for spare parts

information for recyclers

information about relevant contaminants / hazards

-> Will be in several ecodesign regulations

(to be published this year)

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RESOURCE EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ECODESIGN

WE TOOK ONE STEP FORWARD!

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ONE STEP BACK, TWO STEPS FORWARD – RESOURCE EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ECODESIGN

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ONE STEP BACK, TWO STEPS FORWARD – RESOURCE AND OTHER (EFFICIENCY) REQUIREMENTS WITHIN ECODESIGN OR ELSEWHERE

Why take one step back?

-> products that did not get Ecodesign regulations

Power Cables
Steam Boilers
Building insulation
Windows products

-> delays because of complexity etc.

Five steps for better preparation of product requirements

1. Define an object
2. Determine indicators
3. First draft of requirements
4. Discuss and pre-assess with stakeholders
5. Check compatibility with legal framework

-> then choose a legal framework and begin a formal legislative process

1. Define an object

a Product group as in Ecodesign

a broader category as in WEEE or RoHS

Focus on a function or a technology

Focus on an environmental or social issue

…

2. Determine indicators

Economic

Examples: market data, tax revenue, CRM use

Environmental

Examples: CO2 emission, biodiversity impact, land use

Social:

Examples: employment, product features, awareness

…

3. First draft of requirements

What do we want to change in the regulated object?

Level of requirements (on product, component, material, system, installation…)

Kind of requirement (generic, specific, limit value…)

At this stage: no limitation by legal framework!

4. Discuss and pre-assess with stakeholders

NGOs

Industry associations

Standardization bodies

Market surveillance experts

Others…

5. Check compatibility with legal framework

Can the object be regulated here?

Are the chosen indicators valid in that framework?

Of several legal instruments, is there a preferred one?

After that: use the legal instrument to regulate.

For Ecodesign: this would be the time to put the product group into the working plan.

Why take one step back? Will that really take us two steps forward?

- **For all we know, a similar method may already be in use.**

So why do it?

- **Thinking / discussing about a requirement before formally starting a legislative process may save costs and time.**
- **Having a better picture of the intended requirements and indicators may help getting more meaningful data in preparatory studies or similar processes.**
- **Knowing that a worthwhile requirement will not fit a particular legal instrument can speed up regulation in a different framework.**

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THANK YOU!

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