

Oil and Gas BOILERS Surveillance

Oil and gas to feature for some time

According to CSO data, in 2016 gas and oil boilers accounted for up to 1.2 million space heating products in Ireland.¹ Although Government strategy is to encourage low carbon technologies and, in particular heat pumps, gas and oil boilers will continue to feature in the market in both the short and medium-term.

Boilers sold in Ireland and the EU must meet standards set out in EU regulations relating to Ecodesign and energy labelling. These regulations are in place to ensure that the products meet minimum levels of energy efficiency and other parameters which impact the environment. The EU Ecodesign Directive and EU Energy Labelling Regulation are important policy tools contributing approximately one third of the EU's 55% emissions target by 2030, and financial savings of over €118bn on consumer expenditure.

How are products monitored?

The success of these regulations depends on compliance. Non-compliant products can be harmful to consumers and the environment.

They may use more energy than is allowed under the regulations, or than is claimed by manufacturers. They can also cause problems for specifiers and installers who have designed and installed a product appropriately, only to have the customer dissatisfied with the performance of the product.

Dependent on the type of product, the regulations also cover a wide range of other performance characteristics, for example water heating energy efficiency, seasonal space heating efficiency, product information, etc.

To ensure compliance, each EU member state is obliged to undertake market surveillance in relation to the regulations. In Ireland, SEAI organises the market

surveillance of Ecodesign and Energy Labelling on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in his capacity as Market Surveillance Authority (MSA). SEAI was given this responsibility in 2016 and the Government is aiming to transfer the MSA designation to SEAI within the coming year.

Market surveillance involves checking products to see whether they comply with the relevant regulations through market screening, technical documentation checks and laboratory testing. When non-compliance is identified, SEAI first seeks to engage constructively with the manufacturer



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to bring the product into compliance. If compliance is not possible, the product must be removed from the EU market. The MSA has enforcement powers to support this work and companies can be prosecuted in relation to serious offences under the regulations leading to fines of up to €250,000.

Space heating surveillance

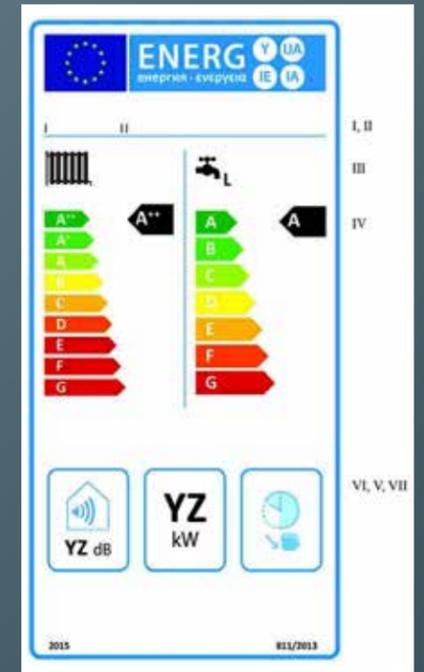
On 15 June 2022, SEAI met with invited key stakeholders, manufacturers and suppliers in Ireland to discuss a new market surveillance campaign focused on gas and oil space heating products. The aim of the campaign is to ensure such products comply with Ecodesign and energy labelling requirements, and to maintain a level playing field for compliant economic operators.

As part of the campaign SEAI will request various technical documents from manufacturers and assess compliance with the regulations. This may include laboratory testing of certain products. Non-compliant products will be removed from the market or brought into compliance.

High-level findings of the campaign will be shared with the manufacturers at another stakeholder event in the spring of next year.

What do suppliers need to do?

A "supplier" is a manufacturer in the EU, an authorised representative of a manufacturer who is not in the EU, or an importer who places



a product on the EU market. They must all follow the regulatory requirements as set out by the relevant EU legislation –

- EU 813/2013 for Ecodesign aspect of space and combination heating;
- EU 811/2013 relating to energy labelling of space and combination heaters.

Suppliers must also register their products on the European Product Database for Energy Labelling (EPREL) before putting them on the market. EPREL is used to provide important energy efficiency information to consumers, installers and designers.

All oil and gas boiler queries on Ecodesign and energy labelling regulations can be addressed directly to Mark Cafferkey at mark.cafferkey@seai.ie ■

References

1. CSO, 2016

