

European Commission - Reduction of Standby Energy Consumption

The European Commission has adopted new requirements to reduce the energy consumption of household electrical and electronic equipment in standby and off modes (Commission Regulation 1275/2008). These requirements are expected to reduce standby electricity consumption by almost 75% by 2020.

The standby feature, which is common in almost all household and office equipment, such as televisions and computers, facilitates switching products on and off, for example, by a remote control. In standby mode, the equipment is connected to the main power source, but it provides only limited functions—reactivation function and information or status display function. In off mode, the equipment is also connected to the main power source, but it provides no function.

The regulation enters into force in two stages:

By 2010, power consumption of new equipment must not exceed:

1 Watt, for off mode

1 Watt, for standby mode – reactivation function

2 Watts, for standby mode – information or status display function

By 2013, power consumption of new equipment must not exceed:

.5 Watt, for off mode

.5 Watt, for standby mode – reactivation function

1 Watt, for standby mode – information or status display function

The scope of the regulation is limited to household and office equipment intended for use in the domestic environment, including appliances, information technology equipment, consumer equipment (audio-visual equipment, electronics, etc.), toys, leisure and sports equipment.

Commission Regulation 1275/2008 implements Directive 2005/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. It was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on December 18, 2008 and entered into force on January 7, 2009.

Link to: [Full text of Commission Regulation 1275/2008](#)

The Commission soon plans to adopt four more ecodesign regulations which have been recently endorsed by the Member States and are currently being scrutinized by the European Parliament and the Council, including the regulation which will gradually phase out incandescent light bulbs.

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