

Laundry driers: Ecodesign requirements not ambitious enough

Proposed MEPS misses energy savings

Proposed minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for condenser tumble driers would ban the new class C in tier 2 (EEI < 76). Today's heat pump driers however are much more efficient than this: first calculations show that the best models already reach the new A+++ class limit, while the least efficient heat pump drier models are in the new class A. The proposed MEPS would create an incentive to develop new driers less efficient than today's heat pump driers – new inefficient heat pump driers or even models without heat pump. A drier with an EEI=75 consumes more than twice as much energy as an efficient drier with an EEI of 35.

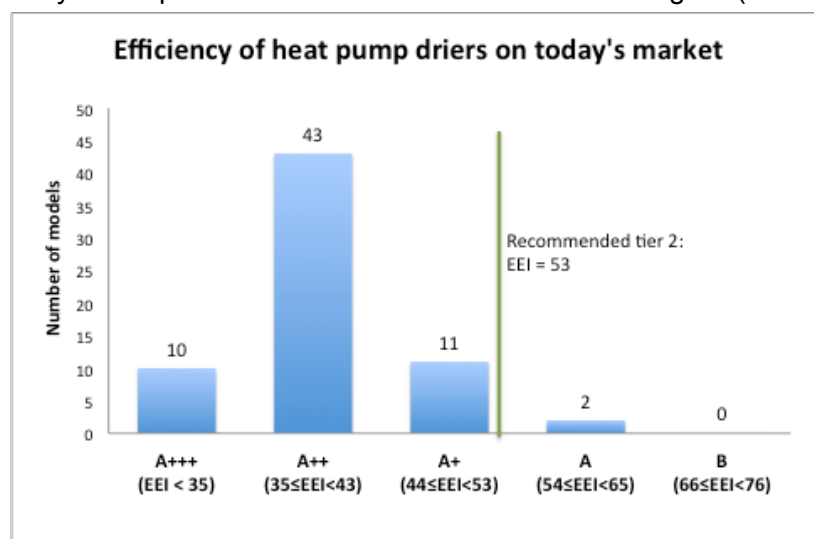
Tier 2 should aim closer at today's BAT (Best available technology) and be raised to the efficiency level of the new A+ class (EEI = 53).

High number of models, moderate life cycle costs

On the European market there are 66 different domestic heat pump drier models from 17 manufacturers (www.topten.eu), 64 of which reach the new class A+ or better.

An analysis by Topten showed that life cycle costs of a conventional drier without heat pump were higher than those of the lowest priced and of the mean priced heat pump drier model.

Only the expensive HP drier models' LCCs were higher (Werle 2011).



Data source: topten.eu

No 'protection' for vented driers

The proposed MEPS would leave today's class C vented driers on the market. The generally less efficient vented driers should however not be protected by less ambitious MEPS: the same EEI calculation and the same MEPS must be applied to all technologies in order to promote the best.

More information

- All heat pump driers on the European market: www.topten.eu
- Rita Werle, EEDAL 2011: Energy efficient heat pump driers – European experiences and efforts in the USA and Canada: http://www.topten.eu/uploads/File/040_Rita_Werle_final_driers.pdf
- EC ecodesign and labelling draft regulations: <http://env-ngo.eup-network.de/>
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