

Why Standards and Labeling ?

In the present era of fast changing lifestyles and inventions for making life comfortable, the dependence of mankind on electrical gadgets and appliances has increased manifold in recent years. While purchasing these appliances, we seldom look for energy efficiency. But with increasing energy costs and the need for using energy efficiently, it is important to make an informed choice about energy consumption of the appliances at the time of purchase. The Standards & Labelling Program, aspire to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving, and thereby the cost saving potential of the marketed household and other equipment. This programme is expected to result in energy savings in the medium and long run while at the same time it will encourage domestic industry to compete in producing more energy efficient products for the market.

The genesis of worldwide standard and labelling programmes is seen from the global concern on increasing energy consumption and climate change in 1990s. The Energy Star program was launched in the early 1990s by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in an attempt to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission by power plants. The program was intended to be part of a series of voluntary programs, such as Green Lights and the Methane Programs, that would demonstrate the potential for profit in reducing greenhouse gases and facilitate further steps to reducing global warming gases. Initiated as a voluntary labelling program designed to identify and promote energy efficient products, Energy Star began with labels for computer and printer products. In 1995 the program was significantly expanded, introducing labels for residential heating and cooling systems and new homes. More than 40,000 Energy Star products are available in the US in a wide range of items including major appliances, office equipment, lighting, home electronics, and more. In addition, the label can also be found on new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. In 2006, about 12 percent of new housing in the United States was labelled Energy Star. The EPA estimates that it saved about \$14 billion in energy costs in 2006 alone.

In India, the Standards & Labelling Program was initiated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency as one of its flagship programmes in May 2006 and is aims to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving, and thereby the cost saving potential of the marketed household and other equipment. This is expected to impact the energy savings in the medium and long run while at the same time it will position domestic industry to compete in such markets where norms for energy efficiency are mandatory.

The scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Power in May, 2006 and is currently invoked for following equipments/appliances and is in voluntary mode except for the first four appliances:

1. (Frost Free(No-Frost) refrigerator, **Mandatory w.e.f Jan 2010**
2. Tubular Fluorescent Lamps, **Mandatory w.e.f Jan 2010**
3. Room Air Conditioners, **Mandatory w.e.f Jan 2010**
4. Distribution Transformer, **Mandatory w.e.f Jan 2010**
5. Room Air Conditioners (cassette, floor standing tower, ceiling, corner types)
6. Direct Cool Refrigerator,
7. Induction Motors,
8. Agriculture Pump Sets,
9. Ceiling Fans,
10. LPG Stoves (presently in abeyance till further orders),
11. Electric Geysers,
12. Colour TV,
13. Washing Machines and
14. Computers (note books/laptops)

For further details please visit the website of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency at www.beeindia.in.