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**COMMISSION DECISION**

of **XXX**

**establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for personal,  
notebook and tablet computers**

(Text with EEA relevance)

## COMMISSION DECISION

of **XXX**

**establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for personal, notebook and tablet computers**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the EU Ecolabel<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Articles 6(7) and 8(2) thereof,

After consulting the European Union Eco-labelling Board,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, the EU Ecolabel may be awarded to products which have a reduced environmental impact during their entire life cycle.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 66/2010 provides that specific EU Ecolabel criteria are to be established according to product groups.
- (3) In order to better reflect the state of the art of the market for this product group and innovation, it is considered appropriate to modify the scope of the product group and to establish a revised set of ecological criteria.
- (4) Commission Decision 2011/330/EU<sup>2</sup> and Commission Decision 2011/337/EU<sup>3</sup> addressed separately notebook and personal computers. It is appropriate to merge the criteria laid down in Decisions 2011/330/EU and 2011/337/EU into one criteria in order to reduce the administrative burden for competent bodies and applicants. Moreover, the revised criteria reflect a broadening of the scope to address new products such as tablet and all-in-one portable computers, as well as new requirements on hazardous substances that were introduced subsequent to the Decisions 2011/330/EU and 2011/337/EU by Regulation (EC) No 66/2010.
- (5) The criteria aim, in particular, at promoting products that have a lower environmental impact and contribute to sustainable development along their life cycle, are energy efficient, are durable, repairable and upgradeable, easy to dismantle and recover resources from for recycling at the end of their useful life and which restrict the

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 27, 30.1.2010, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 147, 7.6.2011, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 151, 10.6.2011, p. 5.

presence of hazardous substances<sup>4</sup>. Products with improved performance in relation to these aspects should be promoted via the Ecolabel. It is therefore appropriate to establish EU Ecolabel criteria for the product group 'personal, notebook and tablet computers'.

- (6) The criteria also promote the social dimension of sustainable development by introducing requirements regarding labour conditions at final assembly plants, with reference to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multi-National Enterprises.
- (7) The revised criteria, as well as the related assessment and verification requirements should be valid for three years from the date of adoption of this Decision, taking into account the innovation cycle for this product group.
- (8) Commission Decision 2011/330/EU<sup>5</sup> and Commission Decision 2011/337/EU<sup>6</sup> should therefore be replaced by this Decision.
- (9) A transitional period should be allowed for producers whose products have been awarded the EU Ecolabel for personal and notebook computers on the basis of the criteria set out in Decisions 2011/330/EU and 2011/337/EU, so that they have sufficient time to adapt their products to comply with the revised criteria and requirements.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 66/2010,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

- (1) The product group of 'personal, notebook and tablet computers' shall comprise desktop computers, integrated desktop computers, portable all-in-one computers, notebook computers, two-in-one notebook computers, tablet computers, thin clients, workstations, and small-scale servers.
- (2) Gaming consoles and digital picture frames shall not be considered computers for the purpose of this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

For the purpose of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply, as specified in Commission Regulation (EU) No 617/2013<sup>7</sup> and the Agreement between the USA and the

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<sup>4</sup> Substances with hazard classifications established under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('the CLP Regulation') and which have been identified according to Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 ('the REACH Regulation').

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 147, 7.6.2011, p. 5

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 151, 10.6.2011, p. 5

Union referred to in Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>8</sup> as amended by Energy Star v6.1<sup>9</sup>:

- (1) 'Computer' means a device which performs logical operations and processes data and normally includes a central processing unit (CPU) to perform operations or, where no CPU is present, it must function as a client gateway to a server which acts as a computational processing unit. Although computers are capable of using input devices such as a keyboard, mouse, or touchpad, and outputting information to displays, such devices are not required to be included with the computer upon shipment.
- (2) 'Desktop Computer' means a computer whose main unit is designed to be located in a permanent location and is not designed for portability and which is designed for use with an external display, keyboard, and mouse. Desktop computers are intended for a broad range of home and office applications.
  - (a) 'Integrated Desktop Computer' means a Desktop Computer in which the computer and display are integrated into a single housing, function as a single unit, and are connected to AC mains power through a single cable. Integrated Desktop Computers come in one of two possible forms:
    - (i) a system where the display and computer are physically combined into a single unit; or
    - (ii) a system packaged as a single system where the display is separate but is connected to the main chassis by a DC power cord and both the computer and display are powered from a single power supply.
- (3) 'Portable All-In-One Computer' means a computing device designed for limited portability that meets all of the following criteria:
  - (a) It includes an integrated display with a diagonal size greater than or equal to 17.4 inches;
  - (b) It lacks a keyboard integrated into the physical housing of the product in its as-shipped configuration;
  - (c) It includes and primarily relies on touchscreen input (with optional keyboard);
  - (d) It includes wireless network connection;

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<sup>7</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 617/2013 of 26 June 2013 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to ecodesign requirements for computers and computer servers

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EC) No 106/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 on a Union energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment (recast version) (OJ L 39, 13.2.2008, p.1).

<sup>9</sup> Commission Decision (EU) 2015/1402 of 15 July 2015 determining the European Union position with regard to a decision of the management entities under the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Union on the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment on the revision of specifications for computers included in Annex C to the Agreement (OJ L 217, 18.8.2015, p.9)

- (e) It includes an internal battery, but is intended primarily to be powered by connection to the AC mains.
- (4) 'Notebook Computer' means a computer designed specifically for portability and to be operated for extended periods of time both with and without a direct connection to an AC mains power source. Notebook Computers utilise an Integrated Display, a non-detachable mechanical keyboard (using physical, moveable keys) and pointing device, and are capable of being powered by an integrated rechargeable battery or other portable power source. Notebook computers are typically designed to provide similar functionality to desktops, including operation of software similar in functionality to that used in desktops.

A portable computer with a reversible, but non-detachable, touch-sensitive screen and an integrated physical keyboard is considered to be a Notebook Computer.

- (a) 'Mobile Thin Client' means a computer meeting the definition of a Thin Client, but is designed specifically for portability and also meets the definition of a Notebook Computer. These products are considered to be Notebook Computers for the purposes of this Decision.
  - (b) 'Two-In-One Notebook' means a computer which resembles a Notebook Computer with a clam shell form factor and physical keyboard, but has a detachable touch-sensitive display which can act as an independent tablet computer upon detachment, where the keyboard and display portions of the product must be shipped as an integrated unit. Two-In-One Notebooks are considered Notebooks for the purpose of this Decision.
- (5) 'Tablet Computer' (also referred to as a 'slate computer') means a computing device designed for portability that meets all of the following criteria:
- (a) It includes an integrated display with a diagonal size greater than 6.5 inches and less than 17.4 inches;
  - (b) It lacks an integrated, physical attached keyboard in its as-shipped configuration;
  - (c) It includes and primarily relies on touchscreen input (with optional keyboard);
  - (d) It includes and primarily relies on a wireless network connection (e.g., Wi-Fi, 3G, etc.);
  - (e) It includes and is primarily powered by an internal rechargeable battery (with connection to the AC mains for battery charging, not primary powering of the device).
- (6) 'Small-scale Server' means a computer that typically uses desktop components in a desktop form factor, but is designed primarily to be a storage host for other computers. Small-scale Servers are designed to perform functions such as providing network infrastructure services and hosting data and media. These products are not designed to process information for other systems or run web servers as a primary function. A Small-scale Server has the following characteristics:

- (a) It is designed in a pedestal, tower, or other form factor similar to those of desktop computers such that all data processing, storage, and network interfacing is contained within one box or product;
  - (b) It is designed to operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, with minimal unscheduled downtime (in the 65 order of hours/year);
  - (c) It is capable of operating in a simultaneous multi-user environment serving several users through networked client units; and
  - (d) The operating system is designed for home or low-end server applications including Windows Home Server, Mac OS X Server, Linux, UNIX, Solaris.
- (7) 'Thin Client' means an independently-powered computer that relies on a connection to remote computing resources to obtain primary functionality. Its main computing functions are provided by the remote computing resources. Thin clients covered by this specification are limited to devices with no rotational storage media integral to the computer and are designed for use in a permanent location and not for portability.
- (a) 'Integrated Thin Client' means a Thin Client in which computing hardware and display are connected to AC mains power through a single cable. Integrated Thin Client computers can be either a system where the display and computer are physically combined into a single unit or a system packaged as a single system where the display is separate but is connected to the main chassis by a DC power cord and both the computer and display are powered from a single power supply. As a subset of Thin Clients, Integrated Thin Clients are typically designed to provide similar functionality to Thin Client systems.
  - (b) 'Ultra-thin Client' means a computer with less local resources than a standard Thin Client that sends raw mouse and keyboard inputs to a remote computing resource and receives back raw video from the remote computing resource. Ultra-thin clients cannot interface with multiple devices simultaneously nor run windowed remote applications due to the lack of a user-discernible client operating system on the device (i.e. they operate at a level which is beneath firmware and therefore user inaccessible).
- (8) 'Workstation' means a high-performance, single-user computer typically used for graphics, Computer Aided Design (CAD), software development, financial and scientific applications, amongst other computer intensive tasks. Workstations covered by this specification are marketed as a workstation; provide Mean Time Between Failures (MTBF) of at least 15,000 hours (based on either Bellcore TR-NWT-000332, issue 6, 12/97 or field collected data); and support Error-Correcting Code (ECC) and/or buffered memory. In addition, a workstation shall meet three or more of the following criteria:
- (a) It provides supplementary power support for high-end graphics (e.g., PCI-E 6-pin 12V supplemental power feed);
  - (b) It is wired for greater than x4 PCI-E (Peripheral Component Interconnect Express) serial connections on the motherboard in addition to the graphics slot(s) and/or PCI-X support;

- (c) It does not provide support for Uniform Memory Access (UMA) graphics;
  - (d) It includes 5 or more PCI, PCI-E, or PCI-X slots;
  - (e) It is capable of multi-processor support for 2 or more processors, supporting physically separate processor packages/sockets, i.e. this requirement cannot be met with support for a single multicore processor; and/or
  - (f) Qualification by 2 or more Independent Software Vendor's (ISV) product certifications.
- (9) The following additional definition shall apply for the purpose of defining a sub-product within the definitions of 'Notebook Computer' and 'Two-in-one Notebooks':
- (a) 'Subnotebook' means a form of notebook that is less than 21mm thick and that weighs less than 1.8kg. Two-in-one notebooks (see the separate definition in Article 2(5)) with a subnotebook form are less than 23mm thick. Subnotebooks incorporate low power processors and solid state drives. Optical disk drives are generally not incorporated. Subnotebooks provide longer rechargeable battery life than notebooks, usually more than 8 hours.

#### *Article 3*

The criteria for awarding the EU Ecolabel under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, for a product falling within the product group 'personal, notebook and tablet computers' defined in Article 1 of this Decision, as well as the related assessment and verification requirements, are set out in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 4*

The criteria and the related assessment and verification requirements set out in the Annex, shall be valid for three years from the date of adoption of this Decision.

#### *Article 5*

For administrative purposes, the code number assigned to the product group 'personal, notebook and tablet computers' shall be "050".

#### *Article 6*

Decisions 2011/330/EU and 2011/337/EU are repealed.

#### *Article 7*

- (1) This Decision shall apply two months after its adoption date. However applications for the EU Ecolabel for products falling within the product group 'personal, notebook and tablet computers' submitted within two months from the date of adoption of this Decision may be based either on the criteria set out in Decision 2011/330/EU or 2011/337/EU, or on the criteria set out in this Decision. Applications should be evaluated in accordance with the criteria on which they are based.
- (2) Ecolabels awarded in accordance with the criteria set out in Decision 2011/330/EU or 2011/337/EU may be used for 12 months from the date of adoption of this Decision.

*Article 8*

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*  
*Karmenu VELLA*  
*Member of the Commission*