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**COMMISSION DECISION**

of **XXX**

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

(Text with EEA relevance)

# COMMISSION DECISION

of **XXX**

## establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for desktop, 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 Article 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 take into account the innovation of the last years, it is considered appropriate to modify the scope of the product group and establish a revised set of ecological criteria.
- (4) Commission Decision 2011/337/EU<sup>2</sup> and Commission Decision 2011/330/EU<sup>3</sup> addressed separately personal computers and notebook computers. These have been amalgamated into one criteria document in order to reduce the administrative burden for competent bodies and applicants. Moreover, the revised criteria reflect new requirements on hazardous substances that were introduced subsequent to the previous decisions by Regulation (EC) No 66/2010.
- (5) The criteria aim, in particular, at promoting products that have a lower environmental impact 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 contain a limited amount 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 'desktop, notebook and tablet computers'.
- (6) The revised criteria, as well as the related assessment and verification requirements should be valid for **four** years from the date of adoption of this Decision, taking into account the innovation cycle for this product group.

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 151, 10.6.2011, p. 5.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 147, 7.6.2011, p. 5.

<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).

- (7) Commission Decision 2011/337/EU<sup>5</sup> and Commission Decision 2011/330/EU<sup>6</sup> should therefore be replaced by this Decision.
- (8) A transitional period should be allowed for producers whose products have been awarded the EU Ecolabel for desktop, notebook and tablet computers on the basis of the criteria set out in Decisions 2011/337/EU and 2011/330/EU, so that they have sufficient time to adapt their products to comply with the revised criteria and requirements.
- (9) 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 'desktop, notebook and tablet computers' shall comprise desktop computers, integrated desktop computers, notebook computers and 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:

- (1) 'Computer' means a device which performs logical operations and processes data. For the purposes of his specification, computers include both stationary and portable units, including Desktop Computers, Integrated Desktop Computers, Notebook Computers, Small-Scale Servers, Thin Clients, and Workstations. Although computers are capable of using input devices and displays, such devices are not required to be included with the computer upon shipment. Computers are composed of, at a minimum:
  - (a) A central processing unit (CPU) to perform operations. If no CPU is present, then the device must function as a client gateway to a server which acts as a computational CPU;
  - (b) User input devices such as a keyboard, mouse, or touchpad; and
  - (c) An Integrated Display screen and/or the ability to support an external display screen to output information.
- (2) 'Desktop Computer' means a computer whose main unit is designed to be located in a permanent location, often on a desk or on the floor. Desktop computers are not designed for portability and are 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 computing hardware and display are integrated into a single housing, and which is connected to AC mains power through a single cable. Integrated

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

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 147, 7.6.2011, p. 5

Desktop Computers come in one of two possible forms: (1) a system where the display and computer are physically combined into a single unit; or (2) 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 Desktop Computers, Integrated Desktop Computers are typically designed to provide similar functionality as Desktop systems.

- (3) '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 include an Integrated Display and are capable of being powered by an integrated battery or other portable power source. In addition, most Notebooks use an external power supply and have an integrated keyboard and pointing device. Notebook computers are typically designed to provide similar functionality to Desktops, including operation of software similar in functionality as that used in Desktops.

A portable computer with a reversible 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, designed specifically for portability, and also meeting the definition of a Notebook Computer. These products are considered to be Notebook Computers for the purposes of this specification.

- (4) 'Tablet Computer' (often referred to as 'slate computer') means a wireless, portable computer that is primarily for battery mode usage and has a touch screen interface. This means that connection to mains via an adapter is considered to be mainly for battery charging purposes and the onscreen virtual keyboard or a digital pen is in place of a physical keyboard. Devices with a visible display area of less than 100 cm<sup>2</sup> are not considered to be Tablet Computers under this specification.

If a detachable keyboard docking station is supplied together with the Tablet Computer for the intention of the product being converted to a notebook computer, then the product is considered to be a notebook computer under this specification.

- (5) '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 (e.g. archiving) and hosting data/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) 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/product;
  - (b) Designed to operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, with minimal unscheduled downtime (on the 65 order of hours/year);
  - (c) Capable of operating in a simultaneous multi-user environment serving several users through networked client units; and
  - (d) Designed for an industry accepted operating system for home or low-end server applications (e.g., Windows Home Server, Mac OS X Server, Linux, UNIX, Solaris).

- (6) 'Thin Client' means an independently-powered computer that relies on a connection to remote computing resources (e.g., computer server, remote workstation) to obtain primary functionality. Main computing functions (e.g., program execution, data storage, interaction with other Internet resources) are provided by the remote computing resources. Thin Clients covered by this specification are (1) limited to devices with no rotational storage media integral to the computer and (2) designed for use in a permanent location (e.g. on a desk) 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 come in one of two possible forms: (1) a system where the display and computer are physically combined into a single unit; or (2) 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 as Thin Client systems.
  - (b) 'Ultra-thin Client' means a computer with lesser local resources than a standard Thin Client that sends raw mouse and keyboard input 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., beneath firmware, user inaccessible).
- (7) 'Workstation' means a high-performance, single-user computer typically used for graphics, CAD, software development, financial and scientific applications among other compute intensive tasks. Workstations covered by this specification (a) are marketed as a workstation; (b) 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 (c) support error-correcting code (ECC) and/or buffered memory. In addition, a workstation meets three or more of the following criteria:
- (a) Provide supplemental power support for high-end graphics (e.g., PCI-E 6-pin 12V 97 supplemental power feed);
  - (b) Wired for greater than x4 PCI-E on the motherboard in addition to the graphics slot(s) and/or PCI-X support;
  - (c) Do not provide support for Uniform Memory Access (UMA) graphics;
  - (d) Provide 5 or more PCI, PCI-E, or PCI-X slots;
  - (e) Provide multi-processor support for 2 or more processors (shall support physically separate processor packages/sockets, i.e., requirement cannot be met with support for a single multicore processor); and/or
  - (f) Qualification by 2 or more Independent Software Vendor (ISV) product certifications; these certifications can be in process, but shall be completed within 3 months of qualification.

### *Article 3*

The criteria for awarding the EU Ecolabel under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, for a product falling within the product group 'desktop, 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.

#### *Article 4*

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

#### *Article 5*

For administrative purposes, the code number assigned to the product group 'desktop, notebook and tablet computers' shall be "**0XX**".

#### *Article 6*

Decisions 2011/337/EU and 2011/330/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 'desktop, 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 2011/337/EU or 2011/330/EU, or on the criteria set out in this Decision. Applications shall be evaluated in accordance with the criteria on which they are based.
2. Ecolabels awarded in accordance with the criteria set out in Decision 2011/337/EU or 2011/330/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*  
*Janez POTOČNIK*  
*Member of the Commission*