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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, xxx
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Draft

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

on establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for sanitary tapware

(Text with EEA relevance)

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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 Ecolabel¹, 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 those products with 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) Since the consumption of water and the related energy to heat the water contribute significantly to the overall environmental impacts of households and non-domestic premises, it is appropriate to establish EU Ecolabel criteria for the product group of "sanitary tapware".
- (4) 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

The product group "Sanitary Tapware" shall comprise: household taps, showerheads and showers, including when they are marketed for non domestic use, which are used to derive water mainly for personal hygiene, cleaning, cooking and drinking.

¹ OJ L 27, 30.1.2010, p. 1-19

Excluded from the scope of this product group are bathtub taps, double lever showers and non-domestic special purpose sanitary tapware.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Decision, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "*Tap*" – a directly or indirectly, mechanically and/or automatically operated valve from which water is drawn.

(2) "*Showerhead*" – either a fixed overhead or side shower outlet (or body jet or similar device), which may be adjustable, and which directs water from a supply system onto the user or a moveable hand held shower outlet which is connected to a tap via a shower hose and can be hung directly on the tap or on the wall with the aid of an appropriate support (also known as a shower handset).

(3) "*Shower*" – a combination of a showerhead and other interrelated control valves and/or devices packaged and sold as a kit.

(4) "*Double lever showers*" – a shower equipped with separate levers (or handles) for the control of the supply for cold and hot water.

(5) "*Electric shower*" – a shower equipped with a device to locally heat shower water using electrical power.

(6) "*Non-domestic special purpose sanitary tapware*" – sanitary tapware which requires unrestricted water flow in order to fulfil the intended function (e.g. laboratory safety taps and showers, professional kitchen taps).

(7) "*Water flow limiting device*" – a technical device which allows limiting water flow at given level (value). Active user intervention is necessary to overcome this limitation and to activate higher water flow for a chosen period of time within a single use.

(8) "*Maximum available water flow rate*" – the highest available water flow rate from the system or individual fitting. For pillar taps and divided spout outlet kitchen taps, the flow rate shall be the summation of the two flows, i.e. the total flow to basin or sink from the hot and cold water tapware.

(9) "*Lowest available maximum water flow rate*" – the lowest water flow rate from the system or individual fitting available at full opening of the valve. For pillar taps and divided spout outlet kitchen taps, the flow rate shall be the summation of the two flows, i.e. the total flow to basin or sink from the hot and cold water tapware.

(10) "*Security technical feature*" – a device forming part of a sensor controlled sanitary tapware which is used to prevent continuous water flow by stopping the water supply after pre-set time even if there is a person or an object present within the sensor range.

Article 3

In order to be awarded the EU Ecolabel under Regulation (EC) No 66/2010, an item of sanitary tapware shall fall within the product group "Sanitary Tapware" as defined in Article 1 of this Decision and shall comply with the criteria as well as the related assessment and verification requirements set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 4

The criteria for the product group of "Sanitary Tapware", as well as the related assessment and verification requirements, 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 'Sanitary Tapware' shall be 'x'.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Janez POTOČNIK

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

FRAMEWORK

The aims of the criteria

The criteria aim, in particular, at promoting water-efficient products, which contribute to a reduction in the consumption of water and, as a consequence, the energy required for water heating.

CRITERIA

Criteria are set for each of the following aspects:

1. Water consumption and related energy saving
2. Materials
3. Product quality and longevity
4. Packaging
5. User information
6. Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

Assessment and verification requirements

The specific assessment and verification requirements are indicated within each criterion.

Where the applicant is required to provide declarations, documentation, analyses test reports, or other evidence to show compliance with the criteria, it is understood that these may originate from the applicant and/or their supplier(s), as appropriate.

Where possible, the testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Where appropriate, test methods other than those indicated for each criterion may be used if the competent body assessing the application accepts their equivalence.

Where appropriate, competent bodies may require supporting documentation and may carry out independent verifications.

EU ECOLABEL CRITERIA

Criterion 1 – Water consumption and related energy saving

(a) Maximum available water flow rate

Due to variability in the use purposes of products covered by the group of "Sanitary Tapware" and the related different water flow needs, the criterion of maximum available water flow rate for the product group has been divided into three sub-groups: a) kitchen taps, b) basin taps and c) showers.

The maximum available water flow rates of the sanitary tapware, independent of the water pressure, shall not exceed the values presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Maximum available water flow rates for "Sanitary Tapware"

Product sub-group	Water flow rate [l/min]	
Kitchen taps	without flow limiting device	6.0
	with flow limiting device ^[1]	8.0
Basin taps	without flow limiting device	6.0
	with flow limiting device ^[1]	8.0
Showerheads and showers ^[2]	9.0	

^[1] The flow limiting device must allow for setting the default water flow rate (water-saving setting) at the value of max of 6 l/min. The maximum available water flow rate shall not exceed 8 l/min.

^[2] Showerheads and showers with more than one spray pattern shall fulfil the requirement for the setting with the highest water flow.

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and specify the maximum water flow rate (in l/min) of the product submitted for the labelling procedure together with results of tests conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in respective EN standards for the given kind of product (see Table 2). The testing shall be conducted at a pressure of 1.5, 3.0 and 4.5 bar (± 0.2 bar) for products stipulated as being suitable for high pressure installations (typically 1.0 to 5.0 bar) or at pressure of 0.2, 0.3 and 0.5 bar (± 0.2 bar) for products stipulated as being suitable for low pressure installations (typically 0.1 to 0.5 bar). A mean value of three measurements shall not exceed the maximum flow rate values indicated in Table 1. Additionally, for products with an option of economy setting (i.e. flow limiting device), a description of the device applied (i.e.*

its main technical parameters and installation, setting and use instructions) shall be submitted.

Table 2 EN standards regarding product group of "Sanitary Tapware"

Number	Title
EN 200:2008	Sanitary tapware. Single taps and combination of taps for water supply systems of type 1 and type 2 – General technical specification
EN 816:1997	Sanitary tapware. Automatic shut-off valves (PN10)
EN 817:2008	Sanitary tapware. Mechanical mixing valves (PN10) – General technical specifications
EN 1111:1998	Sanitary tapware. Thermostatic mixing valves (PN10) – General technical specification
EN 1112:2008	Sanitary tapware. Shower outlets for sanitary tapware for water supply systems type 1 and type 2 – General technical specification
EN 1286:1999	Sanitary tapware. Low pressure mechanical mixing valves. General technical specification
EN 1287:1999	Sanitary tapware. Low pressure thermostatic mixing valves. General technical specifications
EN 15091:2006	Sanitary tapware. Electronic opening and closing sanitary tapware

(b) Lowest available maximum water flow rate

The lowest available maximum water flow rates of the sanitary tapware, independent of the water pressure, shall not be lower than the values given in Table 3:

Table 3 Lowest available maximum water flow rates for "Sanitary Tapware"

Product sub-group	Water flow rate [l/min]
Kitchen taps	2.0
Basin taps	2.0
Showers and showerheads	4.5

For electric showers the lowest available maximum water flow rate, independent of the water pressure, shall not be lower than 3 l/min.

Assessment and verification: the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and specify the lowest available maximum water flow rate of the product

submitted for the labelling procedure together with the results of tests conducted in accordance with the testing procedure indicated in respective EN standards for the given kind of product (see Table 2). 1.5, 3.0 and 4.5 bar (± 0.2 bar) for products stipulated as being suitable for high pressure installations (typically 1.0 to 5.0 bar) or at pressure of 0.2, 0.3 and 0.5 bar (± 0.2 bar) for products stipulated as being suitable for low pressure installations (typically 0.1 to 0.5 bar). A mean value of three measurements shall not be lower than the flow rate value given in Table 3.

(c) Temperature management

Sanitary tapware shall be equipped with an advanced device or technical solution which allows for the management of temperature and/or hot water by the end-user, for example by limiting the water temperature or the supply of hot water, or by thermostatic adjustment.

The solution should be specified to provide the user with accurate control over the temperature of the water from the tap or shower, independent of the heating system to which it is connected. Possible solutions could include, for example, a hot water barrier, a cold water supply in middle position and/or thermostatic mixing valve.

Sanitary tapware designed to be fitted to a water supply that is already temperature controlled and showerheads shall be exempted from this criterion.

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement and provide a documentation describing the technology/device applied in the product to the awarding competent body as part of the application. Where a water supply is already temperature controlled the applicant shall explain the specific technical property that makes the sanitary tapware specifically designed to be fitted to this form of system.*

(d) Time control

This criteria applies for sanitary tapware which are sold or marketed together with time control devices (i.e. devices which stop water flow after certain time if they are not used, for example sensors which stop the water flow when a user leaves the sensor range) or after a set time period of use (for example, time limiters, which stop the water flow when the maximum flow time is reached).

For sanitary tapware equipped with time limiters the pre-set maximum flow period for time regulated products should not exceed 15 seconds for taps and 35 seconds for showers. Nevertheless, the product shall be designed to allow the installer to adjust the flow time in accordance with the intended product's application.

For sanitary tapware equipped with a sensor, shut off delay time after usage shall not exceed 1 second for taps and 3 seconds for showers. Furthermore, the sanitary tapware equipped with a sensor shall have an in-built 'security technical feature' with a pre-set shut-off time of maximum 2 minutes to prevent an accident or continuous water flow from taps or showers when not in use.

Assessment and verification: *the product or system shall be tested at the pressure range stipulated (3.0 bar (± 0.2 bar) for high pressure valves or 0.5 bar (± 0.2 bar) for low pressure valves) to validate that the time control shuts off within a 10% tolerance of that specified by the applicant. The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and specify the type of solution used within its technical parameters (a pre-set water flow time for time limiters, the shut off delay time after usage for sensors), and provide the results of a test conducted in accordance with the standard EN 15091 for electronic opening and closing sanitary tapware or EN 816 for automatic shut-off valves to the awarding competent body as part of the application.*

Criterion 2 – Material requirements

Chemical and hygienic characteristics of materials

Substances and materials used in products in contact with drinking water shall comply with the requirements given in the Article 10 of the Drinking Water Directive². These substances or materials, or impurities associated with them, shall not release to water intended for human consumption compounds in concentrations higher than necessary for the purpose of their use and shall not, either directly or indirectly, reduce the protection of human health. They shall not cause any deterioration in water intended for human consumption with regard to food quality, appearance, odour or taste. Within the recommended limits for correct operation (i.e. conditions of use as given in respective EN standards indicated in Table 2) the materials shall not undergo any change which would impair the performance of the product. Materials without adequate resistance to corrosion shall be adequately protected so that they do not present a health risk.

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and provide a copy of a certificate stating that the product is suited for contact with drinking water (with regard to hygienic requirements) from one of the respective European Union national accredited laboratories issuing such certificates to the awarding competent body as part of the application.*

² Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption, OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, p. 32–54.

Criterion 3 – Product quality and lifetime extension

(a) General requirements

The product shall comply with the general requirements of the respective EN standards listed in Table 2 or with the corresponding obligatory national legal regulations. The requirement regarding water flow rates is excluded from this point, as it is already covered by Criterion 1.

Where applicable, cleaning of the product elements, which might be necessary under normal use conditions, shall be possible with use of simple tools or agents.

(b) Exposed surface condition and quality of Ni-Cr coating

A sanitary product which has a metallic Ni-Cr coating (regardless of the nature of the substrate material) shall comply with the standard EN 248:2003 "Sanitary tapware – General specification for electrodeposited coatings of Ni-Cr".

(c) Reparability and availability of spare parts

The product shall be designed in the way that its exchangeable components can be replaced easily by the end-user or a professional service engineer, as appropriate. Information about which elements can be replaced shall be clearly indicated in the information sheet attached to the product. The applicant shall provide also clear instructions to the end-user to enable basic repairs to be undertaken by the end-user or educated and trained experts, as appropriate.

The applicant shall further ensure that spare parts are available for at least seven years from the end of production.

(d) Warranty

The applicant shall ensure guarantee for repair or replacement of minimum four years.

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with these requirements and provide samples of the product information sheet and warranty terms to the awarding competent body as part of the application.*

With regard to Criterion (a) and (b) the applicant shall additionally provide test results conducted according to the standards listed in Table 2 (a) and the standard EN 248 (b) to the awarding competent body as part of the application. The testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Criterion 4 – Packaging

Packaging shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) all packaging components shall be easily separable by hand into individual materials in order to facilitate recycling,
- (b) where used, cardboard packaging shall consist of at least 80 % recycled material.

Assessment and verification: the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and provide a sample(s) of the packaging to the awarding competent body as part of the application.

Criterion 5 - User information

The product shall be accompanied by relevant user information, which provides advice on the product's proper and environmentally friendly use as well as its maintenance. It shall bear the following information in print (on the packaging and/or on documentation accompanying the product) and/or electronic format:

- (a) That the main environmental impacts are related to the use phase of the product, i.e. to consumption of water and related energy for water heating and advice on how rational use can minimise environmental impacts,
- (b) That the product has been awarded the EU Ecolabel, together with a brief yet specific explanation as to what this means in addition to the general information provided alongside the EU Ecolabel logo,
- (c) The maximum flow rate in l/min (tested as indicated in Criterion 1),
- (d) Installation instructions, including information on the specific operating pressures that the product is suitable for,
- (e) Advice concerning the issue of water stagnation and a related warning about the drinking of tap water after a longer stagnation time (applicable particularly for kitchen taps)
- (f) Recommendations on the proper use and maintenance (including cleaning and decalcification) of the product.

This information shall highlight all relevant instructions, particularly referring to the maintenance and use of products, e.g. information about which spare parts can be replaced, instruction concerning the replacement of washers if taps drip water, advice on cleaning sanitary tapware with appropriate materials in order to prevent damage to their internal and external surfaces.

- (g) For sanitary tapware (except showerheads) which is not equipped with time control devices (as per Criterion 4), the following text should be visibly reproduced on the packaging of the product: *"This Ecolabel product is intended for domestic use. It is not intended for use in non-domestic environment for multiple and frequent use (e.g. public*

facilities in schools, offices, hospitals, swimming-pools)". For sanitary tapware which is equipped with time control devices (as per criteria 4), the following text should be visibly reproduced on the packaging of the product: "This Ecolabel product is particularly intended for use in non-domestic environment for multiple and frequent use (e.g. public facilities in schools, offices, hospitals, swimming-pools)".

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and provide a sample(s) of the user information to the awarding competent body and/or a link to a manufacturer's website containing this information as part of the application.*

Criterion 6 – Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

The optional label with text box shall contain the following text:

- Improved water efficiency
- Increased energy saving potential

The guidelines for the use of the optional label with the text box can be found in the "Guidelines for the use of the EU Ecolabel logo" on the website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/promo/pdf/logo%20guidelines.pdf>

Assessment and verification: *the applicant shall provide a sample of the printed paper product showing the label, together with a declaration of compliance with this criterion.*