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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) The criteria, as well as the related assessment and verification requirements, should be valid for four years from the date of adoption of this Decision.
- (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: taps and showerheads typically used in domestic settings; however, not restricted to them if the use purpose is similar; used to derive water mainly for personal hygiene, cleaning, cooking and drinking.

The products covered by the scope of this Decision are defined as follows:

Tap - a small diameter directly or indirectly manually operated valve from which water is drawn.

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

¹ OJ L 27, 30.1.2010, p. 1-19

Included in the product group is sanitary tapware used typically for a domestic function. Nevertheless, the scope is not restricted to the use of products for domestic use only. It covers also products for similar non-domestic uses e.g. in schools, sport centres etc.

Excluded from the scope of this product group are bathtub taps and non-domestic special purpose taps and showerheads which need unrestricted water flow to fulfil the intended function (e.g. laboratory safety taps and showers).

Article 2

The criteria for the product group "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 3

For administrative purposes the code number assigned to the product group 'Sanitary Tapware' shall be 'x'.

ANNEX FRAMEWORK

The aims of the criteria

The criteria aim, in particular, at promoting water-efficient products, which in consequence have also reduced impact on consumption of energy needed for water heating. The criteria furthermore aim at supporting products manufactured with use of more environmental friendly technologies and proved to be safe for consumers.

CRITERIA

Criteria are set for each of the following aspects:

1. Water-and related energy consumption
2. Manufacturing processes
3. Materials
4. Product quality and longevity
5. Packaging
6. User information and 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) and/or their supplier(s), etc., as appropriate.

Where possible, the testing should 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 – Maximum water flow rate

Due to the variability of use purposes of products covered by the group of "Sanitary Tapware" and the related different water flow needs, with regard to the criterion of maximum water flow rate, the product group has been divided into three sub-groups: a) kitchen taps, b) basin taps and c) showerheads (including shower handsets).

The maximum water flow rates to the basin/sink, independent on the water pressure, shall not exceed the values presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Maximum 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*	8.0
Basin taps		6.0
Showerheads**		9.0

* The device must allow for setting the default water flow rate at the value of max of 6/min. Active user intervention shall be required to activate higher water flow for a short period of time. At the end of such period the kitchen taps shall revert back to the default water flow rate of max 6 l/min.

** Showerheads 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 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 pressure of 3.0 ± 0.2 bar. A mean value of three measurements shall not exceed the maximum flow rate values indicated in Table 1. The testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Additionally, for kitchen taps with an option of economy setting, a description of the solution/device applied (i.e. its main technical parameters and installation, setting and use instructions) shall be submitted.

For showerheads with more than one spray pattern maximum flow rate shall be specified at least for the mode with the highest water flow.

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

Criterion 2 – Minimum water flow rate

The minimum water flow rates to the basin/sink, independent on the water pressure, shall not be lower than the values given in Table 3:

Table 3 Minimum water flow rates for "Sanitary Tapware"

Product sub-group	Water flow rate [l/min]
Kitchen taps	4.0
Basin taps	4.0
Showerheads	6.0

Assessment and verification: The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and specify the minimum flow rate of the product submitted for 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 pressure of 3.0 ± 0.2 bar. A mean value of three measurements shall not be lower than the minimum flow rate value given in Table 3. The testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Criterion 3 - Temperature management

Products shall be equipped with a device/technical solution which allows temperature/hot water management, e.g. through limiting water temperature/hot water supply.

Some possible solutions are for example hot water barrier, cold water supply in middle position, thermostat valves.

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.

Criterion 4 – Time/Volume control (only for non-domestic "Sanitary Tapware")

Basin taps and showerheads installed in non-domestic premises for multiple users and high frequency use (e.g. in schools, hospitals, swimming-pools, etc., but not e.g. in bathrooms of hotel rooms or dormitories) shall allow for limiting time of a single water use (i.e. water volume consumed). This can be done by equipping the products with devices which stop water flow after certain time if they are not used (e.g. sensors stop water flow when a user leaves the sensor range) or after set time of use (e.g. time limiters, which stop water flow when the maximum flow time is exceeded).

Assessment and verification: The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and specify the type of solution used and its technical parameters as appropriate (e.g. water flow time for time limiters) to the awarding competent body as part of the application.

Criterion 5 – Manufacturing processes – surface treatment

Manufacturing processes, independently on their location, shall be conducted complying with the respective current EU legislation. The applicant shall specify which manufacturing plants make the surface treatment and also shall demonstrate that the treatment is made following good environmental practices, as indicated in the last available version of the Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics (BREF)².

To evaluate good environmental practices the competent body can check particularly aspects like reuse of the Chromium VI or use of Chromium III, zinc processing without cyanide, water recirculation systems, not using chlorinated solvents when alternative less toxic is available, etc.

Assessment and verification: The applicant shall declare compliance with the requirement and provide a documentation describing the production technologies used and their reference to the technologies described in the abovementioned BREF document and/or attach respective declaration(s) and documentation from relevant supplier(s), if appropriate.

² Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Reference Document on Best Available Techniques for the Surface Treatment of Metals and Plastics, European Commission, August 2006, available online at: http://www.ineris.fr/ippc/sites/default/files/files/stm_bref_0806.pdf.

Criterion 6 – Material requirements

a) Chemical and hygienic characteristics of materials

Substances and materials used in products in contact with drinking water shall comply with the requirements of the Article 10 of the Drinking Water Directive³. 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 do not, either directly or indirectly, reduce the protection of human health. All materials in contact with water intended for human consumption shall present no health risk up to the temperature of 90°C. 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) the materials shall not undergo any change which would impair the performance of the product. Materials without adequate resistance to corrosion shall be protected.

Assessment and verification: To be discussed during the 2nd AHWG meeting.

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

Sanitary product which has a metallic Ni-Cr coating (whatever the nature of the substrate material is) has to comply with the standard EN 248:2003 Sanitary tapware. General specification for electrodeposited coatings of Ni-Cr.

Assessment and verification: The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and provide results of test conducted in accordance with testing procedure indicated in respective EN standard. The testing shall be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Criterion 7 – Product quality and lifetime extension

a) General requirements

Product shall comply with the general requirements of the respective EN standards (listed in Table 2).

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

³ 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.

b) Reparability and availability of spare parts

Product shall be designed in the way that its exchangeable components can be replaced easily by the end-user and information which elements can be replaced should 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.

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

c) Warranty

The applicant shall ensure guarantee for repair or replacement of minimum five 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) the applicant shall provide additionally test results conducted according the abovementioned EN standard to the awarding competent body as part of the application. The testing should be performed by laboratories that meet the general requirements of EN ISO 17025 or equivalent.

Criterion 8 – Packaging

Packaging shall meet the following requirements:

- (a) all packaging components shall be easily separable by hand into individual materials to facilitate recycling,
- (b) where used, cardboard packaging shall consist of at least 80 % recycled material,
- (c) made out of one of the following:
 - easily recyclable materials,
 - materials from renewable resources.

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 9 - User information

The product shall be supplied with 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 on the packaging and/or on documentation accompanying the product:

- (a) Information that the main environmental impacts are related to the use phase of the product, i.e. to consumption of water and energy for water heating,
- (b) Information 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 at the EU Ecolabel logo,

- (c) Information on proper product's use to minimise water consumption and related energy consumption for water heating,
- (d) Information on maximum flow rate in l/min (tested as indicated in criterion 1).
- (e) 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 which spare part can be replaced, instruction concerning replacement of washers if taps drip water, advice on cleaning taps and showerheads with appropriate materials in order to prevent damaging its surface, etc.

- (f) Installation instruction, including information on recommended, minimum and maximum pressure the product is intended for.

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 as part of the application.

Criterion 10 – Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel

The logo should be visible and legible. The use of the EU Ecolabel logo is protected in primary EU law. The EU Ecolabel registration/license number must appear on the product, it must be legible and clearly visible.

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

- *Improved water efficiency*
- *Improved hot water management*
- *...(to be discussed further during the meeting)*

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

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/promo/logos_en.htm.

Assessment and verification: The applicant shall declare the product's compliance with the requirement and provide a copy of the label as it will appear on the packaging and/or product to the awarding competent body as part of the application.

APPENDIX I

Laboratory test

The laboratory must meet the general requirements pursuant to standard EN ISO 17025 or be an officially GLP-approved analysis laboratory.

The applicant's analysis laboratory/measurement may be approved to conduct analyses and measurements if:

- the authorities monitor the sampling and analysis process, or
- the manufacturer has a quality system incorporating testing and analyses and which is certified in accordance with ISO 9001, or

The manufacturer's test laboratory can be approved to conduct testing to document effectiveness if the following additional requirements are met:

- It must be possible for ecolabelling organisations to monitor the performance of testing.
- The ecolabelling organisation must have access to all data on the product.