



Update questionnaire on Taps and Showers

July 2017

*Please send your feedback to
JRC-IPTS-TAPS-SHOWERS@ec.europa.eu
by Friday 29 September.*

Contents

A. Update on voluntary labelling schemes for Taps and Showers	3
B. Indications on the scope of a potential energy label for Taps and Showers	4
C. Standardisation work and methods for assessing the performance of Taps and Showers.....	6
D. Performance of products and expected trends	7
E) Other information.....	9

A. Update on voluntary labelling schemes for Taps and Showers

Among the existing voluntary labelling schemes available for Taps and Showers, the following ones have been identified in the preparatory study:

- the ANQIP label¹;
- the Swedish Energy Efficiency Labelling²;
- the Swiss Energy Label for Sanitary Fittings³;
- the Water Efficiency Label⁴;
- the European Water Label scheme⁵.

A1) Are you aware of any other relevant schemes for the EU?

A2) Do you know the market relevance of any of these schemes in 2016? How the market uptake is expected to vary in the coming years? What is the current and forecast distribution of registered products in terms of water/energy performance?

A3) Which are the main modifications foreseen in the future (e.g. change of scope, assessment method, merging of schemes)?

A4) What are the pros and cons of the available voluntary schemes in your view? Please also share insights if you have experience with using them to label products.

¹ <http://www.anqip.pt/>

² <http://services.lkiwa.com/sweden/product-certification/energy-efficiency-labelling>

³ http://www.bfe.admin.ch/php/modules/publikationen/stream.php?extlang=en&name=en_163840118.pdf&endung=Energy%20Label%20Regulation%20for%20Sanitary%20Fittings

⁴ <http://www.well-online.eu/>

⁵ <http://www.europeanwaterlabel.eu/>

B. INDICATIONS ON THE SCOPE OF A POTENTIAL ENERGY LABEL FOR TAPS AND SHOWERS

The energy label for Taps and Showers could potentially apply to almost all products used in domestic and non-domestic applications. Exceptions should however be granted for certain products, e.g.:

- Specific products whose main function is to fill volumes (e.g. bathtub taps, 3/4" taps used in professional kitchens), for which the implementation of water-saving measures would result in taking longer time to draw the same volume of water and thus resulting in consumer dissatisfaction and energy loss. However, the technical definition of such products may be challenging.
- Electric showers, since being included in the scope of Regulation No 814/20136 and Regulation No 812/20137 establishing ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for water heaters and hot water storage tanks.

Product categories to be considered for inclusion in the scope of the energy label include:

1. Showers, shower valves and shower systems with water/energy-saving devices;
2. Showers, shower valves and shower systems without water/energy-saving devices;
3. Washbasin taps with water/energy-saving devices;
4. Washbasin taps without water/energy-saving devices;
5. Kitchen taps with water/energy-saving devices;
6. Kitchen taps without water/energy-saving devices;
7. Flow regulators for showers;
8. Flow regulators for taps;
9. Self-closing taps.

The following elements could be shown in the label:

- Energy and/or water efficiency class (in an A-to-G scale);
- Supplementary information on
 - Nominal flow rate(s);
 - Average energy and water consumption per year;
 - Additional information (e.g. about operation of products, comfort of users, warning messages about the possibility of increasing the risk of scalding or prolonged use with lower flow rates).

Possible additional rules:

⁶ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0814&from=EN>

⁷ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013R0812&from=EN>

- Bonus could be assigned to aerators and devices for the control/limitation/management of water flow rates and/or temperatures.
- Default shut-off time could be considered for automatic taps (sensor and push taps, taps versus shower systems)
- In case of multiple outlets / water flow modes, information for each possible mode should be provided on the label.

Measures could also be applied to overcome potential consumer dissatisfaction, as for instance those due to extremely reduced water flows.

B1) Could you provide technical indications to classify and define products to be included in the scope of a potential energy/water label?

B2) Which products should be explicitly excluded from the scope of a potential energy/water label? Could you please explain why and provide technical indications to define these products?

B3) Which information should be provided in a potential energy/water label?

B4) Which specific rules should be applied?

B5) What is in your view the best possible approach to ensure that all products classified in the best labelling class ensure a sufficient level of comfort to the users in terms of cleaning/rinsing efficiency?

C. STANDARDISATION WORK AND METHODS FOR ASSESSING THE PERFORMANCE OF TAPS AND SHOWERS

The examples identified so far for assessing the performance of taps and showers taking their functions into account include:

1. The Swedish Standards 820000 (mechanical basin and sink mixing valves) and 820001 (thermostatic mixing valves with shower)
2. The pre-normative activities of industry for defining methods for measuring the rinsing efficiency of showers.

C1) Are you aware of any other relevant example of standards/methods for assessing the performance of taps and showers?

C2) Could you please provide up-to-date information about the status of these testing methods?

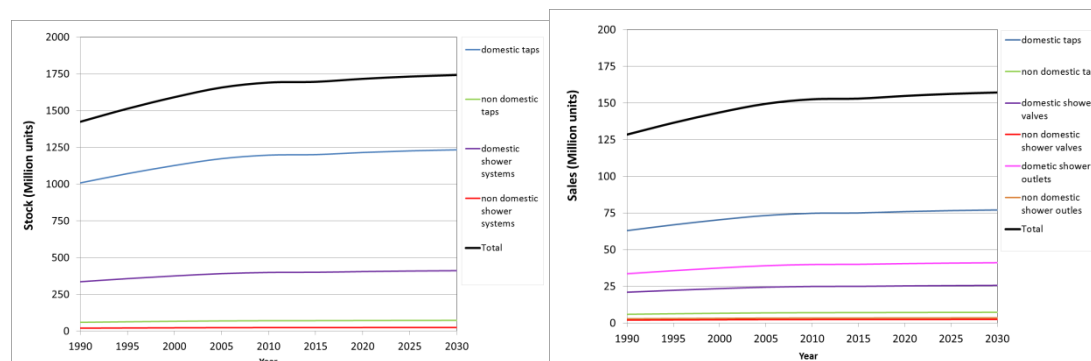
C3) In your opinion, which are the strengths and weakness of the existing testing methods?

C4) How difficult would be to develop a widely accepted standard/transitional method to test the performance and functions of products?

C5) To which extent max flow rates can be an indicator of the performance of taps and showers? (please provide supporting data)

D. PERFORMANCE OF PRODUCTS AND EXPECTED TRENDS

Information about the stock and market of taps and showers in the EU28 was collected in 2014, as summarised in the figures and table below.



Flow rate (L/min)	Basin taps %	Shower controls %	Shower handsets %	Kitchen taps %
< 6	32.6	2.5	10.9	7.9
6-8	17.6	21.4	9.2	2.4
8-10	35.9	15.9	26.0	33.3
10-13	0.5	8.3	35.6	4.4
>13 *	13.4	51.9	18.3	52.0
total	100	100	100	100
* Flow rate (L/min)	Basin taps %	Shower controls %	Shower handsets %	Kitchen taps %
13-20	15.4	59.5	20.2	12.2
20-30	37.6	26.6	66.7	9.2
30-40	20.5	4.0	7.1	32.1
>40	26.5	9.9	6.0	46.5
Sub-total	100	100	100	100

D1) Do you have up-to-date information about stock and sales of products in the EU?

D2) Do you have up-to-date information about the distribution of products on the market in terms of their nominal flows? Which trends can be observed?

D3) Do you have up-to-date information about the distribution of products on the market in terms of functional parameters (e.g. energy efficiency)? Which trends can be observed?

D4) Which thresholds could be set to differentiate among products on the market?

D5) What are in your view the water and the energy saving potentials you envisage for this product group and which would support any (voluntary or mandatory) regulatory intervention?

E) OTHER INFORMATION

Thank you very much for the time invested to provide the feedback to us. Please fill the box below should you have any further comments or observations to make.

For any technical questions related to the questionnaire please write to: JRC-IPTS-TAPS-SHOWERS@ec.europa.eu

As the Commission's in-house science service, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to provide EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support throughout the whole policy cycle.

Working in close cooperation with policy Directorates-General, the JRC addresses key societal challenges while stimulating innovation through developing new standards, methods and tools, and sharing and transferring its know-how to the Member States and international community.

Key policy areas include: environment and climate change; energy and transport; agriculture and food security; health and consumer protection; information society and digital agenda; safety and security including nuclear; all supported through a cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary approach.