

Eurovent Recommendation



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Working Definition on when a fan is considered placed on the EU Common Market

Published by the General Secretariat of Eurovent, the European Committee of HVAC&R Manufacturers, on Wednesday, 3 December 2014.

Developed in a joint effort by the members of the Eurovent Product Group 'Fan Technology' and representatives from Eurovent's national member associations.

Introduction

According to

[COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 327/2011 of 30 March 2011 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to ecodesign requirements for fans driven by motors with an electric input power between 125 W and 500 kW](#) (hereinafter referred to as 'EU Fan Regulation')

the legal requirements for placing fans on the EU Common Market, or putting them in operation within the EU, will increase from 'first tier' (effective since 1 January 2013) to the 'second tier' efficiency levels as of 1 January 2015.

Within Eurovent and its member associations, intense discussions arose among manufacturers purchasing fans to integrate them into other products. In particular, it was discussed on how to handle, in 2015 or even later, any remaining stocks of fans originally purchased before 1 January 2015, or even of those products already manufactured that incorporate fans purchased in the last two years (and which at that time were complying with the requirements of the 'first tier'), or even before.

Eurovent specifically considered the case when a complete fan, suitable to be evaluated for compliance with Ecodesign requirements, is sold by the manufacturer to a different manufacturer, integrating the fan into another energy-related product.

A complete fan, driven by an electric motor, is made up by the assembly of at least three parts: an impeller, a stator, and the electric motor. These are the minimum parts needed to convert electrical power into a continuous flow of a gas (sometimes also including liquid or solid particles in suspension), between two separate spaces, having a difference of pressure which opposes the natural flow of the fluid. The resulting assembly can be put in operation and/or tested (under standardized conditions) to measure and rate its energy efficiency.

Eurovent argues that, in this case, the fan must be considered already placed on the market at the time of the first documented transfer of ownership. That said, it must comply with the legal requirements in force at that time, and it can then freely circulate or be installed (i.e. be made available again) within the EU Common Market, 'even in case of revisions to the applicable legislation or the relevant harmonised standards' (as stated in [The 'Blue Guide' on the implementation of EU product rules 2014](#)).

Working definition

Subsequently, Eurovent developed the following working definition on when a fan is considered placed on the EU Common Market:

A complete fan, suitable to be evaluated for compliance with Ecodesign requirements, is sold by the manufacturer to an independent integrator for incorporation into a different product.

The fan is considered already placed on the market at the time of the first documented transfer of ownership. As such, it must comply with the legal requirements at that time, and it can then freely circulate or be installed within the EU Common Market, even in case of revisions to the applicable legislation or the relevant harmonised standard.

Explanatory remarks

What is a complete fan?

A complete fan, driven by an electric motor, is made up by the assembly of at least three parts: an impeller, a stator, and the electric motor.

What is an independent integrator?

An independent integrator is a different manufacturer, integrating the fan into another energy-related product.

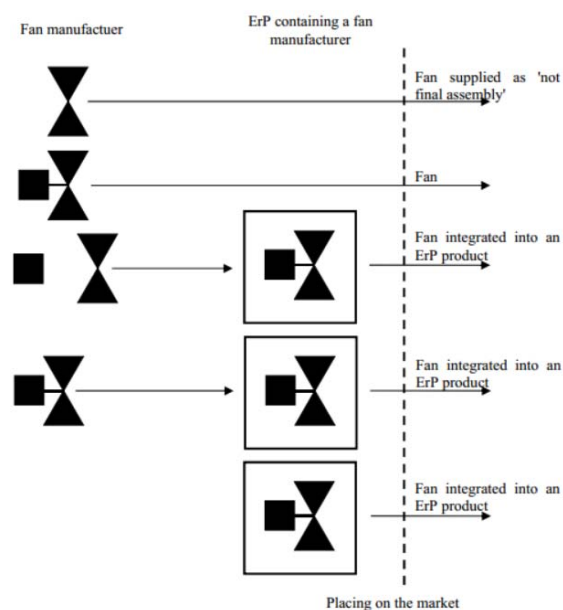
Why is the Eurovent working definition different to explanations given in the European Commission FAQ document on Regulation 327/2011?

The Eurovent 'working definition' offered within this Recommendation is indeed partly conflicting with what is mentioned on page 5 of the Eurovent Commission document [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS TO COMMISSION REGULATION \(EU\) No 327/2011 of 30 March 2011 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to ecodesign requirements for fans driven by motors with an electric input power between 125W and 500kW](#) (hereinafter referred to as 'FAQ document').

On page 5, the FAQ document is emphasising that the sale of a complete fan to an industrial customer, for integration into another product, is not a sale 'with the intention of distribution or use'. For this reason, such an 'act of purchase' would not qualify as a placement on the EU market.

The answer provided by the European Commission is anything but clear; yet, its conclusion is that a manufacturer integrating a purchased (complete) fan into another product, is the one responsible for the fulfilment of 'requirements of the ecodesign fan regulations'.

An example diagram (find below) on page 6 of the FAQ document within Art. 1, section 1.1. visualises paths to place a fan on the market. The above-mentioned case is being reflected in the fourth line.



Eurovent and its members hold that this particular paragraph and fourth line in the diagram of the FAQ document must be incorrect.

The conclusion of the European Commission might be logical when the purchased article is still missing some components, which must be necessarily added before the fan can be test-run, and which have an impact on the measurable efficiency. Yet, this is not the case when the purchased fan is functionally complete.

When a fan is delivered in such a state that it can be tested and rated, it should be evaluated and declared compliant by its manufacturer. The only responsibility of those that can be found downstream along the delivery chain should be to ensure that they receive a proper Declaration of Conformity from the original manufacturer for the goods received and used, although by incorporation into another product.

About Eurovent

Eurovent, the European Committee of HVAC&R Manufacturers, is the representative of Europe's major national associations in the industry of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration. Based on objective and verifiable data, its 24 members from 18 European states represent more than 1000 companies, the majority small and medium-sized. In 2013, these accounted for a combined annual turnover of around 25bn euros and employed more than 120.000 people – making Eurovent one of the largest industry committees of its kind.

Eurovent's roots date back to 1958. Over the years, the Brussels-based umbrella association has become a well-respected and known stakeholder that builds bridges between companies it represents, legislators and standardisation bodies on a EU and international level. The association favours a level-playing field for the entire industry and strongly supports energy-efficient and environmental-friendly solutions. Eurovent holds in-depth relations with partner associations around the globe. It is a founding member of the ICARHMA network, supporter of REHVA and contributor to the EU's BUILD UP initiative.

Eurovent possesses two subunits. With Eurovent Certita Certification (ECC), it majority owns an independent certification company, which holds the ISO 45011 (17065) accreditation – fulfilling highest independency, reliability and integrity standards. Open to any company, it is known for its globally-recognised brand 'Eurovent Certified Performance'. Activities are complemented by Eurovent Market Intelligence (EMI), the association's second independent unit. Its Europe-wide data sets are frequently being used to support the development of EU regulation.

Members of Eurovent

Europe's major, national HVAC&R associations and their more than 1000 manufacturers



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Corresponding Members

Manufacturers in European countries with no national HVAC&R association representing them



Independent Subunits

Organisations with own structures that guarantee a full independency from the Eurovent association



Enclosed:

Files linked within this documents can be found within the 'Attachment' section of Adobe Acrobat.