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Joint Industry Position Paper (DIGITALEUROPE, EPEE, EVIA, JBCE & JRAIA)

Exemption of Spare Parts from the Ecodesign Measure on Fans

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DIGITALEUROPE, EPEE, EVIA, JBCE and JRAIA call for an exemption of spare parts from the Ecodesign fan measure.

According to Art. 1.3d and Art.3.2b of the Ecodesign measure on fans (EU 327/2011), as of 2015 all fans shall comply with the energy efficiency requirements as laid out in the measure. This includes as well the replacement of fans which are incorporated into products.

We emphasize that replacing existing fans by functionally identical models complying with the Ecodesign requirements is disproportionate, technically difficult and detrimental to the environment. Besides a significant cost increase for users and manufacturers, it would lead to additional waste generation due to the reduction of the useful lifetime of equipment in case of a fan failure.

1. The replacement of fans by functionally identical models compliant with Ecodesign requirements has far-reaching consequences and generates disproportionate cost.

In most of the cases, it is impossible to simply replace the fan without impacting the other components of a product. It will imply technical modifications that can be far-reaching if the overall performance of the product is not to be negatively affected.

For example, if an AC fan is to be replaced by an EC fan, it is necessary to change the controls. This requires new and additional electronic cards and can cause significant complications in case of Building Management Systems. Inrush and leakage current require changes of the safety devices, documentation and declaration of conformity (DOC) need to be adapted accordingly and the service personnel needs to be trained to handle the new fans.

Consequences of not applying the required technical changes can be far-reaching, including safety issues, loss of performance, and CE non-conformity. Applying all required changes, on the other hand, will generate disproportionate service cost for the consumer.

2. Applying Ecodesign requirements to replacement fans will be detrimental to the environment

To repair appliances with a fan failure, manufactures have three possibilities.

All of them will entail significant cost without generating benefits for the environment:

- Manufacturers may replace existing fans with compliant fans, provided this will be technically feasible. The cost will be significant and CE conformity will be a major concern.
- Manufacturers may stock existing fans. However, it will be difficult to foresee the quantity required, as failures typically do not happen in the first years of lifetime. Besides the cost implications, any spare parts which will not be used will be waste.
- Given the significant additional cost for repairing, consumers may opt for a new appliance rather than repairing their existing product. Again, significant cost and waste will be generated as the useful lifetime of the appliance will be considerably reduced.

3. The RoHS Directive sets a precedent on the exemption of spare parts

In view of the RoHS directive (2011/62/EU), Öko-Institute performed a study for DG Environment on the spare parts provision. This study concluded that *'the impacts of enforcing these legal requirements may result in costs which significantly outweigh the benefits of its implementation. Such costs include costs for the environment, where products reach the end of their service life early, as well as costs for enterprises, where the value of products is affected in light of the limitations to circulation and reparability.'*

DG Environment therefore concludes in its FAQ that *'it is permissible to put on the market spare parts - containing the hazardous substances - for the repair of old equipment (put on the market before 1 July 2006), but not to repair new equipment (put on the market after 1 July 2006).'*

Note that the RoHS Directive is just one example for the exemption of spare parts which is particularly relevant for the heating and cooling sector. The same principle applies for example to car emissions and safety standards. Indeed, it is normal practice in EU law that spare parts for existing products are not impacted.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining the provision on spare parts would have a retroactive impact, leading to unnecessary and costly 'retrofitting of the installed base'. It would entail disproportionate cost for users and manufacturers and would be in full contradiction with the principle of resource efficiency.

DIGITALEUROPE, EPEE, EVIA, JBCE and JRAIA call for an exemption of spare parts from Ecodesign requirements.

The exemption shall apply to replacement fans to be integrated in products placed on the market before 2013.



About DIGITALEUROPE:

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 58 corporate members and 36 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: www.digitaleurope.org

About EPEE:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 40 member companies, national and international associations.

EPEE member companies realize a turnover of over 30 billion Euros, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service and maintain equipment.

EPEE member companies have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies. Please see our website (www.epeeglobal.org) for further information.

About EVIA:

The European Ventilation Industry Association (EVIA) was established in July 2010 in order to represent the ventilation and fan industry both in Brussels with the EU institutions and relevant stakeholders and in the national capitals with our partners. Our membership is composed of 36 member companies and 5 national associations across Europe realising an annual turnover of over 7 Billion Euros and employing more than 45,000 people in Europe. www.evia.eu

About JBCE:

Created in 1999, the Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE) is a leading European organisation representing the interests of almost 70 multinational companies of Japanese parentage active in Europe. Our members operate across a wide range of sectors, including information and communication technology, electronics, chemicals, automotive, machinery, wholesale trade, precision instruments, pharmaceutical, railway, textiles and glass products. Together, our member companies represented in 2013 global sales of 1.4 trillion euros. Building a new era of cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Japan is the core of our activities. www.jbce.org



About JRAIA:

JRAIA, the Japan Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Industry Association, was originally established in February 1949 as the Japan Refrigerating Machine Manufacturers Association which was thereafter reorganized in February 1969 to become an incorporated association and renamed as it is at present.

JRAIA is the trade association representing over 100 manufacturers of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment in Japan. We, the members of JRAIA, have so far been dedicated to offering quality products to the markets of EU. JRAIA aims to promote and improve production, distribution and consumption of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment and their applied products, as well as auxiliary devices and components, automatic controls and accessories and thereby contribute to the steady development of HVAC&R industry and the improvement in people's standard of living.

For more information, please see our website www.jraia.or.jp