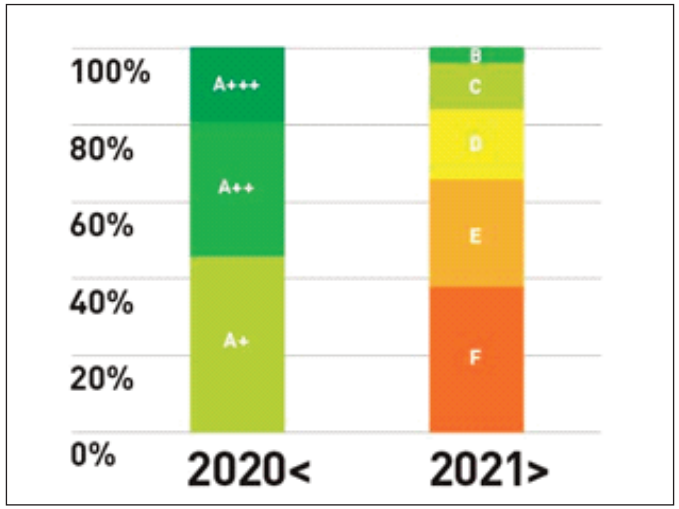
Why do I now see energy labels on devices in the yellow or orange energy zone?

One of the main principles of the new regulation is the elimination of confusing labeling with plus (A+, A++, A+++). As a result, a device that was labeled with A++ according to the old regulation may now belong to class F (orange energy zone). Regardless of this labeling, the devices are just as high quality and energy-efficient as before.

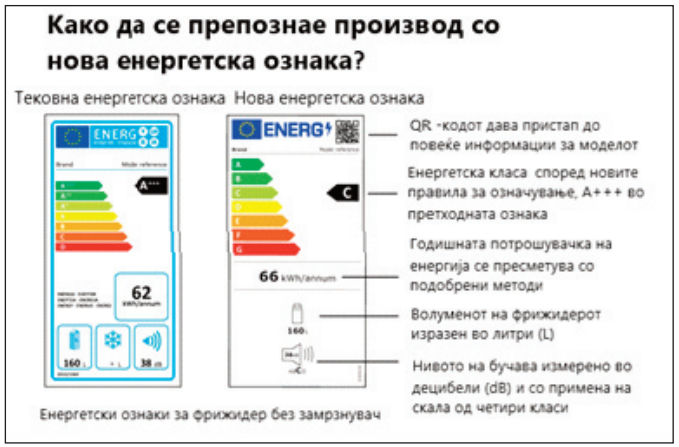
Why do I still see devices with the A+++ label or other corresponding labels?

Consumers may currently come across devices that have labels (A+, A++, A+++) according to the previous regulation or a combination of the previous and new energy labeling regulations. This will continue until all brands present on the market fully switch to the new regulations. This applies to device models that are part of stock produced before March 1, 2021. The final deadline by which models labeled according to previous regulations can be sold is the end of November 2021.



How to Compare the Old and New Energy Classes?

When it comes to determining the new energy class of a device, there is no universal rule for converting the old class to the new one. For example, devices that previously had an A+++ energy class under the old regulations are now often categorized as class D or E according to the new regulation. Significant market changes have been made to align with technological developments, monitor the future market, and help consumers better understand the specifications of devices. The labeling of devices under the old regulation with the A+, A++, and A+++ labels caused confusion among consumers and did not allow room for further technological advancement. The new regulations make it easier to understand energy efficiency, allow for a new ranking of products from class A (highest class) to G (lowest class), and provide greater transparency of device data, which puts consumers in a better position. If a particular product once belonged to the A++ category but is now labeled as F, it still remains as energy-efficient and high-quality as before. The goal of implementing the new regulations is to maximize energy savings potential by the end of 2030.



Организација на потрошувачите на Македонија

Република Северна Македонија
Министерство за економија

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FOR THE NEW ENERGY LABELS

With the introduction of new European Union regulations, significant changes have been made to the energy classes of products as well as to the energy labels. As a result, all manufacturers must comply with the new rules. In the Republic of North Macedonia, the implementation of the new labels is not yet mandatory, as the progress of the Energy Community is being followed. By the end of the year, a special regulation is expected to be adopted to regulate this issue – a Regulation on the labeling of energy consumption and other resources for products that use energy.

Why Was the Class Changed?

Energy labels started being used in the 1990s, when most devices were labeled with energy class E. As technology quickly advanced, products with the highest energy class A appeared on the market. Further development brought better products within class A, so the labels were expanded with plus (A+, A++, A+++), to make differentiation easier. However, this labeling method is no longer effective for the European Union, as technology is constantly advancing. The system of multiple pluses is seen as confusing consumers and making decisions harder, as most devices are now in the "green zone" of energy efficiency. The goal of shifting the scale is to encourage manufacturers to invest more in innovation, resulting in even more energy-efficient products.

What Has Changed?

A decision has been made at the European Union level to change the energy label, so the range of energy classes now goes from A (highest class) to G (lowest class). For a product to belong to the new A class, it now has to meet many more criteria than were required for the old A+, A++, A+++ labels. Labels with pluses are no longer used and are not part of the new regulations. The new method of calculating and labeling energy savings leaves room for technological innovations in the future and their ranking by category.

What Does the Change Look Like?

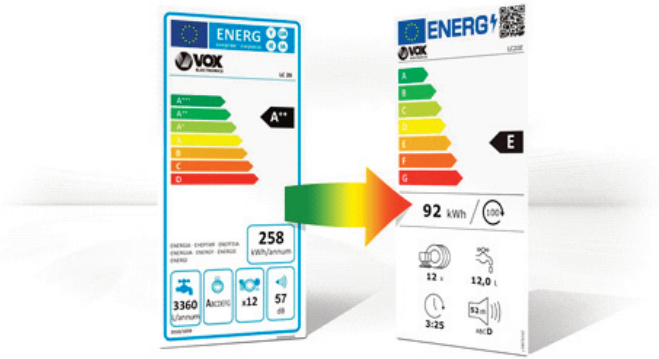
The biggest change occurred in the appearance of the energy label, which is now prominently displayed on devices. Everywhere information about the category and energy efficiency of the device can be found, the new parameters and ranking method are highlighted. This change currently applies to the following categories: washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, and televisions.

When it comes to determining the new energy class of a device, there is no universal rule for converting the old class into the new one. A common situation is that devices which had an A+++ energy class according to the old regulations may now be categorized as class D or E according to the new regulations.

Where Does the QR Code Lead and What Does It Serve?

With the introduction of the new regulations, the presence of a QR code on the energy label becomes mandatory. By scanning the QR code, the consumer gains access to the technical specifications of a particular device in the EU Energy Labeling Database (EPREL). This ensures that each device complies with the prescribed new standard, while also providing transparency of the most important information for the user, which facilitates the comparison of devices from different manufacturers.

In North Macedonia, according to the Regulation, the obligation to enter data into the database will begin after the country's accession to the EU.



Energy Label for Light Bulbs and Other Lighting Devices

From September 1, 2021, a new energy label for light bulbs and other lighting devices has been introduced in the European Union.

MOST COMMON QUESTIONS

Will my device save energy the same as before after the new regulations are introduced?

Yes! Devices are as energy-efficient as before. Since the standard has been tightened and the scale for calculating energy consumption has changed, devices/appliances must meet higher criteria according to the new regulations to be ranked in a higher class. This places the consumer in a protected position, as all information about consumption and savings is transparent.

On which devices will I see energy labels according to the new regulations?

The new EU regulation currently applies to the following categories of devices: washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, and televisions.