

Regulatory impact analysis

RiA-AiR

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Descriptive sheet

Author .a.

Competent government member	Minister Khattabi
Policy unit contact person (Name, Email, Tel. No.)	John Wante john.wante@khattabi.fed.be
Government Agency	FPS VVVL - Directorate-General for Environment
Government Agency contact person (Name, Email, Tel. No.)	Mark.looman@health.fgov.be

Draft .b.

Title of the draft regulation	Royal Decree laying down the goods covered by the lifetime index, the technical standards for determining the scores for each of the criteria and the method of calculating the lifetime index
Brief description of the draft regulation indicating its origin (treaty, directive, cooperation agreement, current affairs, etc.), intended purposes of implementation.	The draft RD introduces a lifetime index for washing machines and televisions as implementation of the law to promote repair and longevity of goods. The lifetime index is an upgrade of the repairability index and will inform consumers about both the repairability and expected lifetime of the appliances in question.
Impact assessments already conducted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If so, please attach a copy of the document or indicate its reference number: __ <input type="checkbox"/> No

Consultation on the draft regulation .c.

Mandatory, optional or informal consultations:	Consultation of relevant sector federations VBO and Agoria
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Sources used to conduct the impact assessment .d.

Statistics, reference documents, organisations and contact persons:	ADEME, France
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Date of termination of impact assessment .e.

08.04.2024

What impact does regulatory design have on these 21 topics?



A draft regulation will usually only impact on a few topics.

A non-exhaustive list of keywords is given to facilitate the estimation of each theme.

If there are **positive and/or negative impacts**, explain them (use keywords if necessary) and state what measures will be taken to mitigate/compensate for any negative impacts.

More detailed questions are asked for fields **3, 10, 11** and **21**.

Consult the [guide](#) or contact the help desk ria-air@premier.fed.be if you have any questions.

Combating poverty of opportunity .1.

Dignified minimum income, access to high-quality services, overindebtedness, the risk of poverty or social exclusion (including for minors), illiteracy, the digital divide.

Positive impact Negative impact ↓ Explain.

No impact

First, better information on the expected lifespan of televisions and washing machines will enable consumers to make a better choice when buying a new appliance. It will result in people not being tempted at the time of purchase to buy an appliance of inferior quality that will incur high costs in the use phase to have it repaired or will not last as long as anticipated, resulting in the need to incur back costs to replace the appliance. This will avoid people losing money on buying bad appliances. Second, appliances that last longer will be more visible to all consumers, making consumers more likely to buy them. This will lead to more appliances coming into use that last longer and will have a positive impact on the quality of second-hand appliance supply. This way, consumers with less purchasing power get a higher supply of cheaper but better-quality second-hand appliances. Especially as far as washing machines are concerned, a better second-hand market will help more people buy their own washing machine and thus avoid the high cost of a launderette. Thirdly, sellers and manufacturers will be more likely to offer appliances with a longer lifespan, which will also have a positive effect on life-cycle costs and supply on the second-hand market. Finally, appliances that last longer will create more jobs in the repair and recycling sector, which employs many people with a lower level of education.

Equal opportunities and social cohesion .2.

Non-discrimination, equal treatment, access to goods and services, access to information, education and training, wage gap, effectiveness of civil, political and social rights (in particular for vulnerable groups, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and minorities).

Positive impact Negative impact ↓ Explain.

No impact

The proposal will lead to more washing machines and televisions coming on the market with good reparability and longevity. This is good for employment in the recycling sector which employs many people through social economy who are struggling in the regular labour market.

Gender equality .3.

Women's and men's access to livelihoods: income, work, responsibilities, health/care/well-being, safety, education/knowledge/training, mobility, time, leisure, etc.

Exercise by women and men of their fundamental rights: civil, social and political rights.

1. What persons does the draft impact (directly or indirectly) and what is the gender breakdown of these group(s) of people?

If no one at all is affected, please explain why.

Household tasks are still - unfairly - more often taken up by women than men. This proposal will have a positive impact on the supply of cheap high-quality second-hand appliances and will make it easier for families to buy their own washing machine and thus avoid wasting time visiting laundrettes. This may have a positive impact on women's time use.

↓ If people are involved, answer question 2.

2. Identify any differences in the respective situations of women and men within the subject matter covered by the draft regulations.

See answer above_ _

↓ If there are differences, please answer questions 3 and 4.

3. Do any of these differences limit access to resources or the exercise of fundamental rights for women or men (problematic differences)? [Y/N] > Explain

[See reply above](#)

4. Identify the positive and negative impact of the design on gender equality, taking into account the previous answers.

[See answers above](#)

↓ If there is a negative impact, please answer question 5.

5. What measures will be taken to mitigate/compensate the negative impact?

[Not applicable](#)

Health .4.

Access to quality healthcare, efficiency of healthcare provision, life expectancy in good health, treatments of chronic diseases (vascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases), health determinants (socio-economic level, nutrition, pollution), quality of life.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

This proposal will lead to less raw material use and less waste generation. Since raw material extraction and waste treatment have negative environmental and health impacts, especially for near sites of extraction and processing, this will reduce the impact.

Employment .5.

Access to the labour market, quality jobs, unemployment, undeclared work, employment and dismissal conditions, career, working time, well-being at work, accidents at work, occupational diseases, work-life balance, appropriate remuneration, possibility of vocational training, collective industrial relations.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

This proposal will lead to more local employment in the maintenance and repair sector, as appliances with a longer lifespan will be serviced or repaired more often, rather than replaced with a new appliance. In Belgium, on the other hand, there is no production of new washing machines and televisions.

Consumption and production patterns .6.

Price stability or predictability, consumer information and protection, resource efficiency, evaluation and integration of (social and environmental) externalities throughout the life cycle of products and services, management patterns of organisations.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

The proposal will lead to consumers being better informed about the reparability and expected lifespan of washing machines and televisions. This will make it easier for them to make their consumption habits more sustainable. Higher demand for appliances with a longer lifespan will also result in manufacturers having more incentive to bring better appliances to market.

Economic development .7.

Founding of companies, production of goods and services, work productivity and productivity of resources/raw materials, competitiveness factors, access to the market and to professions, market transparency, access to public contracts, international trade and financial relations, balance of trade, black economy, supply security of energy sources as well as mineral or organic resources.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

This proposal will lead to more development of the maintenance and repair sector. This creates local jobs and has a positive impact on the export balance of the Belgian economy. After all, washing machines and televisions must be purchased abroad. If

these appliances last longer, fewer of them will need to be purchased and more local jobs can be created in the maintenance and repair sector.

Investments .8.

Investments in physical (machinery, vehicles, infrastructure), technological, intellectual (software, research and development) and human capital, net investment figure as a percentage of GDP.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

This proposal will lead to more investment in the maintenance and repair sector.

Research and development .9.

Opportunities concerning research and development, innovation through the introduction and diffusion of new production methods, new business practices or new products and services, research and development expenditure.

Positive impact

Negative impact



Explain.

No impact

This proposal will result in more data being generated on the recoverability and longevity of appliances. This allows better monitoring of what comes to market and its quality. This opens new perspectives to support the maintenance and repair sector based on research of data, and provide sellers and manufacturers with more information on the performance and actual lifetime of the appliances they market.

SMEs .10.

Impact on the development of SMEs.

1. Which companies are directly or indirectly involved?

Describe the sector(s), number of companies, the % of SMEs (< 50 employees), including the % of micro-companies (< 10 employees).

If no undertakings at all are affected, please explain why.

SMEs make up more than 90 % of the recovery sector. Employment in the recovery sector is in the order of magnitude of 4 000 workers. Also involved are retailers and sellers who market the washing machines and TVs.

↓ If SMEs are involved, please answer question 2.

2. Identify the positive and negative impact of the draft on SMEs.

NB: The impact on administrative burden must be detailed under theme 11.

For SMEs operating in the recovery sector, this measure will be positive. After all, the focus on recovery and the supply of repairable products will increase. For retailers and sellers, this measure will have no impact. They are already required by the Royal Decree for the introduction of a recoverability index to communicate the index to consumers or pass it on in the sales network. The present decision only changes the methodology to be used to calculate the index. For brands/models that enter the market after the introduction of this RD, the lifetime index must be communicated instead of the reparability index.

↓ If there is a negative impact, please answer questions 3 to 5.

3. Does the impact fall disproportionately on SMEs compared to large undertakings? [Y/N] > Explain

Not applicable as there is no negative impact on SMEs.

4. Is this impact proportionate to the intended purpose? [Y/N] > Explain

Yes, since the negative impact is not there for SMEs, but the positive impact is there for consumers.

5. What measures will be taken to mitigate/compensate for this negative impact?

There is no additional negative administrative burden. For brands and models that entered the market before the entry into force of this RD, one can continue to display the recoverability index. For the brands/models that

	enter the market after the entry into force of this decision, there is no recoverability index to be calculated, but a lifetime index.	
Administrative burden .11.		
Reduction of formalities and administrative obligations directly or indirectly linked to the implementation, compliance and/or maintenance of a right, prohibition or obligation.		
↓	If citizens (see theme 3) and/or companies (see theme 10) are involved, please answer the following questions.	
1.	For each target group involved, identify the necessary formalities and obligations for application of the regulation. If there are no formalities or obligations, please explain why.	
a.	Sellers and retailers: for them, there is no additional negative administrative burden. For brands and models that entered the market before the entry into force of this RD, one can continue to display the recoverability index. For the brands/models that enter the market after the entry into force of this decision, there is no recoverability index to be calculated, but a lifetime index. These indices are provided by importers and manufacturers.	b.
		Importers and manufacturers: in addition to data on repairability, they must also collect data on reliability of the appliances they market.
↓	If there are formalities and/or obligations in the current* regulation, please answer questions 2a to 4a.	↓
		If there are formalities and/or obligations in the draft regulations**, please answer questions 2b to 4b.
2.	What information and documentation must each relevant target group provide?	
a.	N/A	b.
		Sheets with data on recoverability and reliability.
3.	How is this information and documentation collected from each relevant target group?	
a.	N/A	b.
		This information is obtained from the manufacturers. Since the same information must be provided for appliances entering the French market, and the Belgian and French markets are for the most part the same, the information will for the most part already be available from manufacturers and therefore will not require any additional administrative burden.
4.	What is the periodicity of formalities and obligations, per target group involved?	
a.	N/A	b.
		Every time a new brand/model enters the market
5.	What measures will be taken to mitigate/compensate for any negative impact?	
	The sheets are prepared in a user-friendly way by the government so that they can be easily completed by the manufacturer or importer. They will be available in Dutch, French, German and English.	
Energy .12.		
Energy mix (low-carbon, renewable, fossil), use of biomass (wood, biofuels), energy efficiency, energy consumption of the industrial, service and transport sectors and households, supply security, access to energy services and goods.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	↓ Explain.
A longer lifespan for appliances will lead to lower energy consumption by avoiding the production of new appliances and the disposal, recycling, incineration and landfill of the replaced end-of-life appliances.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact
Mobility .13.		

Transport volume (kilometres travelled and number of vehicles), supply of common passenger transport, supply of roads, railways and sea and inland waterways for goods transport, distribution of transport modes (modal shift), safety, traffic density.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
A longer lifespan for appliances will lead to fewer trips associated with the production and delivery of new appliances.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact
Food .14.		
Access to safe food (quality control), healthy and nutritious food, waste, fair trade.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
		<input type="checkbox"/> No impact
Climate change .15.		
Greenhouse gas emissions, adaptability to climate change impacts, resilience, energy transition, renewables, rational use of energy, energy efficiency, energy performance of buildings, carbon extraction.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
Longer lifetime of appliances leads to a reduction in carbon emissions throughout the production chain.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact
Natural resources .16.		
Efficient resource management, recycling, reuse, water quality and consumption (surface and ground water, seas and oceans), soil quality and use (pollution, organic substance content, erosion, reclamation, floods, compaction, fragmentation), deforestation.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
The production of electrical appliances requires consumption of raw materials. This consumption is not limited to the raw materials that are directly part of the product but includes the total primary raw materials extracted throughout the production chain worldwide. E-waste is one of the fastest growing household waste streams. On the one hand, this is due to the increasing popularity of electronic appliances and ICT in society. On the other hand, the premature or built-in obsolescence of these appliances shortens their lifespan, and rapid technological evolution means that usable appliances no longer meet consumer requirements and are discarded early. In case of defects, the repair costs also quickly exceed the cost of a new appliance. A lifetime index will lead to longer product life. As a result, products will have to be replaced less quickly. This will lead to savings of raw materials throughout the product chain.		<input type="checkbox"/> No impact
Outdoor and indoor air .17.		
Air quality (including indoor air), pollutant emissions (chemical or biological agents: methane, hydrocarbons, solvents, SOX, NOX, NH3), fine dust.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
A lifetime index will lead to a longer lifespan of appliances. This will entail less raw material and waste production, and therefore fewer emissions to air that occur during extraction, manufacturing, transport and waste treatment.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No impact
Biodiversity .18.		
Degree of biodiversity, state of ecosystems (restoration, conservation, valorisation, protected areas), habitat change and fragmentation, biotechnologies, invention patents in the field of biology, use of genetic resources, services provided by ecosystems (water and air purification, etc.), domesticated or cultivated species, invasive alien species, endangered species.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative impact	<input type="button" value="↓"/> Explain.
A lifetime index will lead to a longer lifespan of appliances. This will entail less resource and waste production and thus also reduce pressure on biodiversity throughout the product chain.		<input type="checkbox"/> No impact

Nuisance .19.		
Noise, odour or visual nuisances, vibrations, ionising, non-ionising and electromagnetic radiation, light pollution.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Positive impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact ↓ Explain.		<input type="checkbox"/> No impact
A lifetime index will lead to a longer lifespan of appliances. This will entail less raw material and waste production and thus also cause less impact through environmental nuisance throughout the product chain.		
Government .20.		
Democratic functioning of the bodies for consultation and deliberation, service to users, complaints, appeals, protests, mode of implementation, public investment.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive impact <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative impact ↓ Explain.		<input type="checkbox"/> No impact
The government will receive more data on the expected lifespan of appliances entering the market and will thus be able to implement better policies to reduce the negative impact of these products.		
Policy coherence for the benefit of development .21.		
Consideration of the side effects of Belgian policy measures on the interests of developing countries.		
1.	Identify any direct or indirect impact of the design on developing countries in terms of:	
	<input type="checkbox"/> food safety <input type="checkbox"/> health and access to drugs <input type="checkbox"/> decent work <input type="checkbox"/> local and international trade	<input type="checkbox"/> Incomes and mobilisation of local resources (valuation) <input type="checkbox"/> mobility of persons <input type="checkbox"/> environment and climate change (clean development mechanisms) <input type="checkbox"/> peace and safety
	If no developing country is affected, please explain why.	
	A longer lifespan of appliances will cause less primary raw materials to be extracted. Many of these raw materials are extracted in developing countries and the negative social or environmental impact associated with them also affects those countries. In addition, a wider supply of quality second-hand goods will be a benefit to people in developing countries, as it increases access to affordable washing machines and television sets.	
	↓	If there is a positive and/or negative impact, please answer question 2.
	2.	Clarify the impact for each of the regional groups or economic categories (list countries if necessary). See annex
	↓	If there is a negative impact, please answer question 3.
	3.	What measures will be taken to mitigate/compensate the negative impact?
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