

1 REGULATION OVERVIEW

The European Union has issued a new regulation on implementing Directive 2009/125/EC with regard to small, medium and large power transformers. The European Union has issued a new regulation No 548/2014 on implementing Directive 2009/125/EC with regard to small, medium and large power transformers.

This regulation establishes eco-design requirements for placing on the market or putting into service power transformers with a minimum power rating of 1 kVA used in 50 Hz electricity transmission and distribution networks or for industrial applications.

The Commission study showed that energy in the use phase is the most significant environmental aspect that can be addressed through product design. Significant amounts of raw materials (copper, iron, resin, aluminum) are used in the manufacturing of transformers, but market mechanisms seem to be ensuring an adequate end-of-life treatment, and therefore it is not necessary to establish related eco-design requirements. Annex I on Ecodesign requirements of EU regulation 548/2014 therefore establishes two tiers of energy-efficiency requirements (from July 1, 2015, and from July 1, 2021) as well as product-information requirements.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Point 2 of Article 1 (Subject matter and scope) states that:

2. This Regulation shall not apply to transformers specifically designed and used for the following applications:
 - transformers specially designed for emergency installations;

2.2 Definition of an emergency installation

According to the French order of August 26, 2013, relating to combustion plants with a capacity of at least 20 MW and subject to authorization under Section 2910 and Section 2931, an emergency installation may be defined as being intended only to supply power to safety systems or to provide emergency power when the main power supply fails.

We consider that this definition could be used in the EU countries.

Some examples of emergency installations: hospitals, retirement houses, generating sets used to ensure the safety of the national electricity grid with running time less than 400 hours per year.

For the avoidance of doubt all other installations where run hours exceed 400 hours per year should use the appropriate Eco-design compliant transformers.

2.3 Our position

As our emergency generators are primarily designed to supply power to safety systems or to provide power in the event the grid is lost, the transformers used in these installations may therefore be considered as being beyond the scope of the aforementioned regulation.

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