



NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

PRESS RELEASE

The National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection is investigating energy efficiency labels

The National Trade and Consumer Protection Authority (NATCP) and the government agencies under its professional guidance are conducting a comprehensive market surveillance inspection of energy labelling to protect Hungarian families, covering both traditional and online trade.

Government inspections under the professional supervision of the NATCP focus on the conditions of marketing of commercially sold refrigeration appliances (fridges, freezers and wine storage), in particular with regard to the energy efficiency labelling and product information sheets of the products.

The aim of the energy efficiency labelling scheme is twofold: firstly, to ensure that consumers have access to accurate comparative information on the technical characteristics of household appliances, helping them to choose the right equipment for their needs. On the other hand, an important role is to encourage manufacturers to further improve the energy efficiency of appliances and to accelerate the market transition to energy efficient technologies. For transparency, the single EU regulation will return to energy classes from A to G from 1 March 2021. The change has made the labelling scheme easier to use and understand, and has also tightened the consequences for problematic cases.

In addition, visual advertising (including advertising on the Internet) and technical promotional material (including technical promotional material on the Internet) will also be subject to review. The inspections will be carried out in chain stores, chain outlets, technical stores, specialised stores, other retail outlets and online stores.

While individual space heating appliances and solid fuel boilers have been in the focus of inspections in 2023, household ovens and cooker hoods have been inspected last year. In 2024, the government agencies carried out a total of 105 inspections under the thematic inspection, of which 81 were in traditional shops and 24 in online shops. Of these, 45 cases were found to be in breach, representing a 43% failure rate. Out of a total of 1,584 appliances checked, 808 were found to be faulty, representing a significant 51% failure rate.

Dr. Lilla Németh-Weingartner, President of the NATCP said that *“in the case of infringements, we will take the necessary steps and measures to achieve the lawful marketing of products, in close cooperation with economic operators, bearing in mind the principle of proportionality.”*

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National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection