

New efficiency standard for electric motors

From 1 January 2017 onward, the 'European Minimum Energy Performance Standard' (EU MEPS) will also apply to motors with a nominal output of between 0.75 and 7.5 kW. Consequently, electric motors must comply with energy efficiency class IE3 or better. The move aims at reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions across Europe.

The regulation also applies to electric motors such as those fitted in KKT chillers' cooling systems and heat pumps. Units such as ventilators and compressors, however, are not affected by the regulation yet.

What does this impact you?

It's quite simple: When you send us an inquiry or place an order, just let us know for which country you need the cooling system. This makes it easier for us as the manufacturer – and for you as the exporter – to comply with applicable regulations and directives.

The EU regulation in detail

In 2009, the Federal Environmental Agency introduced its Ecodesign Directive as the guideline for the eco-friendly design of energy-consuming products. Based on this directive, by-laws stipulating the mandatory minimum requirements for certain product groups have been put into effect. Since January 2015, electric motors with an output of between 7.5 kW and 375 kW can only be used within the European Union if their energy efficiency level is IE3 or better. From 1 January 2017 onward, this regulation will also apply to motors with an output of between 0.75 and 7.5 kW. The legal basis for this change is the EU Directive No. 640/2009, amended by (EU) No. 4/2014.

What is the situation outside the EU?

Other countries have established similar standards for electric motors. In the U.S., for example, all electric motors must now be classified with an energy efficiency class IE3 (premium) or better. The legislation adopted in June of this year affects the entire output range from 0.75 to 375 kW (legal basis: Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) / DoE 10 CFR Part 431).

For an overview of the globally applicable regulations for energy-efficient motors please see: <http://www.zvei.org/Publikationen/Weltweite-Vorschriften-fuer-Energiesparmotoren.pdf> (German only)