

EXPLANATORY NOTES

CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

Motor manufacturers, environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and Member State market surveillance authorities have informed the Commission about motors placed on the market or put into service that do not comply with Regulation 640/2009/EC. These motors are placed on the market or put into service using a loophole in the before-mentioned Regulation.

Regulation 640/2009/EC includes in its Article 1 on subject matter and scope an exemption on the application of the Regulation for motors that are specifically designed for operating at high altitudes or ambient air temperatures considered extreme for conventional motors; additional exemptions are made for other special purpose motors such as those designed to operate in potentially explosive atmospheres and some other special circumstances.

These exemptions were designed bearing in mind that some special purpose motors cannot always be as efficient as motors designed to operate under conventional circumstances as there are constraints on their design that reduce their efficiency but allow them to operate reliably under stressful conditions.

These exemptions were also made by standard IEC EN 60034-1: Rotating electrical machines – Part 1: Rating and performance. However, this standard is under a process of revision and those exemptions are in the process of being updated as a result of technological development and the consequent market shift towards higher efficiency classes also triggered by a global legislative effort in the area, the EU having played a major role in this process.

In addition, Regulation 640/2009 sets minimum information requirements on motors to be provided on or near the rating plate of the motor. The information to be provided includes the nominal efficiency (η) at the full, 75% and 50% rated load and voltage (U_N).

Motor manufacturers have indicated to the Commission the impossibility of providing this information in a legible manner on the rating plate of small motors due to lack of space on the rating plate.

The Commission agrees with manufacturers, environmental NGOs and Member State market surveillance authorities on the need for clarifying the subject matter and scope of Regulation 640/2009/EC and with manufacturers on the need for providing all relevant information on the motor rating plate in a legible manner, and if this is not possible, providing part of this information on a free access Website.

1. NECESSITY TO CLOSE AN UNINTENDED LOOPHOLE

Regulation 640/2009/EC establishes ecodesign requirements for the placing on the market and for the putting into service of motors, including where integrated in other products.

Exemptions are made in the application of the Regulation for motors that are designed to operate under specific conditions, including high altitudes and low or high ambient air temperatures.

Since the adoption of Regulation 640/2009/EC, Member State market surveillance authorities and the industry have identified that individual manufacturers have used these exemptions to circumvent the obligations set by the Regulation by indicating that motors are designed to operate at altitudes or ambient air temperatures beyond the scope of Regulation 640/2009/EC.

This threatens undermining the objective of the Regulation and creates a situation of unfair competition on the market.

2. CLARIFYING PRODUCT INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS ON MOTORS

The product information requirement on motors indicated in Annex I point 2 are amended to allow efficiencies (η) at 75 % and 50 % rated load and rated voltage (U_N) to be given in the product documentation or on a free access Website.

The international standard IEC EN 60034-1: Rotating Electrical Machines. Part 1: Rating and performance indicates that the rating plate should be mounted on the frame of the machine and be located so as to be easily legible in the position of use determined by the type of construction and mounting arrangement of the machine. Chapter 10.2 of the standard contains a list of relevant pieces of information that should be marked on the rating plate.

Due to the large amount of necessary information regarding motors, small motor rating plates do not have sufficient space for additional information without making the text too small and unreadable in practice.

This created a situation where the industry had to provide difficult to read rating plates in order to comply with the Regulation.

The available options are as follows:

Option 1

No action beyond the review of 640/2009 as defined in Article 7 of the regulation

Regulation 640/2009 would not be amended. In this case, due to the present wording, the objective of the Regulation would be undermined and a situation of unfair competition would be created on the market.

Industry would face a situation where manufacturers taking advantage of the loophole in Regulation 640/2009 would be able to put on the market motors less efficient than those prescribed by Regulation (IE3 or IE2 + Variable Speed Drive). These would create an uneven playing field and would risk the payback of the investments that most manufacturers have done or will have to do to comply with the minimum requirements set in Regulation 640/2009.

Consumers would end up having low-efficient motors on the market or integrated in other products. This would lead to higher life cycle costs and higher running cost of motors for consumers.

Option 2

Amending the subject matter and scope and information requirements in addition to the review of the Regulation 640/2009

Regulation 640/2009 would, apart from the needs for the review as set out in Article 7 of the regulation, be amended by correcting an unintended loophole.

This option would solve the problems identified by the industry. Compared to the situation before the adoption of Regulation 640/2009, nothing changes regarding the intended scope of the Regulation.

The amendment will allow reaching the expected savings of 135 TWh by 2020.

Conclusion

Given that Option 2 solves the problem raised while not bringing in negative impacts it is proposed to amend Regulation 640/2009 by modifying the subject matter and scope on Article 1 and by clarifying the product information requirements on motors indicated on Annex I, point 2.

For the clarity of the legal text, the amended Article 1 is replaced in its entirety and a paragraph is added to Annex I, Point 2.

The proposed Regulation amends an implementing measure pursuant to Directive 2009/125/EC and in particular Article 15(1) thereof. The Directive is based on Article 95 of the Treaty.