EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE ECODESIGN FOR ENERGY-RELATED PRODUCTS AND ENERGY INFORMATION (HOUSEHOLD TUMBLE DRYERS) REGULATIONS 2026

2026 No. 318

1. Introduction

1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 Martin McCluskey, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 William Humphreys, Deputy Director for Electrification, Products, Buildings & Delivery at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, confirms that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Nouh Abukar at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Telephone: 07704664126 or email: Nouh.Abukar@energysecurity.gov.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 This instrument sets out updated ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for household tumble dryers in Great Britain. Once in force, this instrument will set new minimum energy performance standards ("MEPS") for household tumble dryers to phase out the least efficient models and drive uptake of efficient technologies. It will introduce resource efficiency requirements, including the mandatory availability of spare parts for at least 10 years and the provision of repair documentation to support product longevity and maintainability. The instrument will also implement a rescaled energy label using a simplified A to G rating scale, replacing the outdated A+++ classification system. Additionally, updated energy labels will provide clearer information on energy consumption, condensation efficiency, noise levels, and repairability, helping consumers make better-informed purchasing decisions.

4.2 The instrument aims to bring into line Great Britain's requirements with those established in Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2533 (ecodesign) and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/2534 (energy labelling). This alignment is intended to maintain regulatory consistency with the European Union, as well as Northern Ireland further to the Windsor Framework Agreement. By ensuring that Great Britain's requirements keep pace with these EU regulations, the instrument seeks to minimise trade barriers, facilitating smoother trade relations and reducing administrative burdens for manufacturers and retailers.

4.3 This legislation replaces the existing requirements for household tumble dryers in (ecodesign) assimilated Commission Regulation (EU) No 932/2012 and in (energy

labelling) assimilated Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 392/2012 into a single instrument.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.4 The extent of this instrument (that is, the jurisdiction(s) which the instrument forms part of the law of) is England, Scotland, and Wales ("GB").

4.5 The territorial application of this instrument (that is, where the instrument produces a practical effect) is GB.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 Ecodesign and energy labelling policies aim to reduce environmental impact of energy-related products by reducing their energy consumption and use of material resources. This supports the government's commitment to net zero, improved energy security, and a more circular, resource-efficient economy. Household tumble dryers are among the most energy-intensive household appliances and therefore raising standards for this product group will deliver significant carbon and energy savings. By removing the least efficient models from the market and introducing clearer energy labels, these measures will protect consumers from high running costs, incentivise manufacturers to innovate, and accelerate the transition to efficient heat pump technology. The regulations are expected to save an estimated 0.56 $MtCO_2e$ and 30,710 GWh of energy by 2050, helping to cut bills and support the UK's net zero and energy security goals.

5.2 The policy delivers on the government's objectives by reducing household energy consumption, though improved product performance, and promoting repair and reuse, via circular economy design standards. It empowers consumers by providing clearer and more accessible product information at the point of purchase, enabling them to make better-informed choices. Additionally, by providing regulatory alignment with the EU and NI, this policy supports frictionless market access and ensures consistency for suppliers across both GB, NI and EU markets.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.3 Post-Brexit, GB assimilated its regulatory regime for energy-related products standards into domestic law having retained existing EU regulations on IP completion day. For household tumble dryers this included assimilated Commission Regulation (EU) No 932/2012 on ecodesign requirements and assimilated Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 392/2012 on energy labelling.

5.4 Under this framework, energy efficiency thresholds were set using a now outdated A+++/D scale for household tumble dryers that has become overcrowded and fails to reflect meaningful differences in product performance and product performance. The energy label under this framework also provides limited technical detail and does not keep pace with improvements in functionality.

5.5 The new policy introduces a modernised approach. It replaces the outdated energy labelling scale for household tumble dryers with a rescaled A to G format, leaving the A class vacant at the outset to stimulate future innovation. A new energy efficiency index ("EEI") cap of 85 is introduced, significantly raising the performance threshold for household tumble dryers placed on the market. The policy mandates the use of a default 'eco' programme for cotton laundry. The policy also includes circular economy measures, requiring manufacturers to make spare parts available for at least

ten years and to provide repair manuals and disassembly instructions to facilitate long-term maintenance and recycling.

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 The current product-specific requirements for tumble dryers are set out in measures (assimilated Commission Regulation (EU) No 932/2012 and assimilated Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 392/2012) which were retained from EU law into GB law on IP completion date and then assimilated. This instrument will repeal and replace these two measures.

6.2 On IP completion day the Secretary of State was granted powers to make new product specific ecodesign and energy labelling measures for GB and this instrument is accordingly made using those powers. These powers are in the Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products Regulations 2010 and the Assimilated Regulation (EU) 2017/1369.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.3 The government had previously stated that it would consult, as soon as possible, on the merits of aligning Great Britain's requirements with the new EU regulations, while making clear that GB would only align where it is in the interests of consumers, businesses, and wider policy goals. Following consultation and strong stakeholder support for alignment, we decided to proceed using the powers available under Regulation 22 of The Ecodesign for Energy-Related Products Regulations 2010 ("the 2010 Regulations") and Article 11 of Assimilated Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 on energy labelling.

6.4 Although additional powers under the Product Safety and Metrology (Amendment) Act ("PRAM Act") have since become available, these were not necessary in this case. As we had already consulted and received strong support for alignment, we determined that the most appropriate was to use the existing powers and apply the negative resolution procedure, which is standard for ecodesign and energy labelling measures.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ran a public consultation from 17 July to 14 August 2025 on proposals to update the ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for household tumble dryers sold in Great Britain. The consultation was conducted via an online survey and email and other written submissions.

7.2 Stakeholders consulted included manufacturers, retailers, trade associations, a consultancy, and private individuals. The consultation sought feedback on proposals to enhance product efficiency, support a circular economy, improve consumer information, and align with EU regulations to support internal market and trade.

7.3 Stakeholders expressed strong support for the proposals, particularly the alignment with EU Regulations 2023/2533 and 2023/2534, improved energy efficiency standards, and clearer consumer information. The main concern raised related to the timing of implementation. In response, the government has extended the transitional period for ecodesign requirements from six months to ten months, aligning it with the new energy labelling requirements to ease the transition for industry.

7.4 The government will publish a full response to this consultation alongside the laying of this instrument. This response will set out the final policy decisions, implementation timelines, and guidance to support stakeholders in complying with the new requirements.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 Guidance to support implementation of the new ecodesign and energy labelling requirements will be included in the Government Response document, which will be published on gov.uk at the time the Statutory Instrument is laid. This guidance will set out supplier and dealer obligations, transitional arrangements, and timelines for compliance

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment is submitted with this memorandum and published alongside the Explanatory Memorandum on the legislation.gov.uk website.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 The impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies is positive overall. While there is a small increase in upfront costs due to the transition to more efficient heat pump tumble dryers, these are offset by long-term energy bill savings. Businesses using household tumble dryers such as hospitality, laundromats, and healthcare facilities will benefit from reduced operating costs. Manufacturers will face transitional compliance costs, but these are expected to be minimal due to alignment with existing EU regulations. There is no significant impact on charities or voluntary bodies.

9.3 The legislation has minimal impact on small or micro businesses.

9.4 The impact on the public sector is minimal. There are no direct financial costs to the public sector, and enforcement mechanisms remain unchanged. Indirect benefits include reduced electricity demand, contributing to energy security and reduced infrastructure costs.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 The approach to monitoring this legislation is ongoing. This will ensure these regulations are effective and working as intended.

10.2 A statutory review clause is included in the instrument requiring the government to conduct a post-implementation review. The review will assess whether the objectives of the legislation have been achieved and whether the measures remain appropriate. The review must be completed and published by 9 December 2032, although the government may undertake the review earlier if appropriate.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 As the instrument is subject to the negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts"). It does however relate to the withdrawal of the UK from the EU because withdrawal means that GB is no longer subject to the EU's ecodesign and energy labelling regimes and has therefore implemented its own regimes.