ANNEX

FRAMEWORK

The aims of the criteria

In order to be awarded an Ecolabel, the product shall comply with the criteria of this Annex, which are aimed at promoting:

— reduction of environmental damage or risks related to the use of energy (global warming, acidification, depletion of non-renewable energy sources) by reducing energy consumption,

— reduction of environmental damage related to the use of natural resources,

— reduction of environmental damage related to the use of hazardous substances by reducing the use of such substances,

Additionally, the criteria encourage the implementation of best practice (optimal environmental use) and enhance consumers' environmental awareness.

The competent bodies are recommended to take into account the implementation of recognised environmental management schemes, such as EMAS or EN ISO 14001, when assessing applications and monitoring compliance with the criteria set out in this Annex (*note:* it is not required to implement such management schemes).

Assessment and verification requirements

The specific assessment and verification requirements are indicated within each criterion.

Where possible, testing should be performed by appropriately accredited laboratories or laboratories that meet the requirements expressed in standard EN ISO 17025 and are competent to perform the relevant tests.

Where appropriate, competent bodies may require supporting documentation and may carry out independent verifications.

The competent bodies are recommended to take into account the implementation of recognised environmental management schemes, such as EMAS or ISO 14001, when assessing applications and monitoring compliance with the criteria (*note*: it is not required to implement such management schemes).