

EU decides on reduction of power consumption for fans - ebm-papst supports high limits

Hauke Hannig
Press spokesperson / Assistant to
the Chairman of the Board of
Managing Directors
ebm-papst Group of companies

Phone: +49 7938 / 81-7105
Telefax +49(0) 7938 / 81-97105
Hauke.Hannig@de.ebmpapst.com
www.ebmpapst.com

03.12.2009 - Page 1 of 2

Mulfingen,

By adopting the Kyoto Protocol, the European Union has committed itself to reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 20% by 2020. One measure aimed at achieving this target is the environmental design directive, which has been in effect since 2005. In accordance with this directive, the potential savings for energy-relevant products are examined, and minimum requirements are specified where applicable.

Initial implementation measures have already been taken in the environmental design directive - also known as the EuP directive (energy-using product directive) - for incandescent lamps, pumps and the 'standby' function. At present, a decision on the minimum requirements regarding the power consumption of fans is pending. The Fraunhofer Institute in Karlsruhe has established limit values, on which a decision will probably be made this year by the European Parliament.

"We advocate high limit values, because compliance with them leads to significant energy savings, thus making an important contribution to the achievement of the worldwide climate objectives", said Hans-Jochen Beilke, Chairman of the Board of Directors at the ebm-papst Group. "Although the specification of high minimum requirements would necessitate enormous efforts on the part of fan manufacturers, ebm-papst and other market players would definitely be able to cope", Beilke continued.

According to a study by the Fraunhofer Institute, in the 15 biggest European countries alone around 10 large power stations are needed to generate power for the operation of fans.

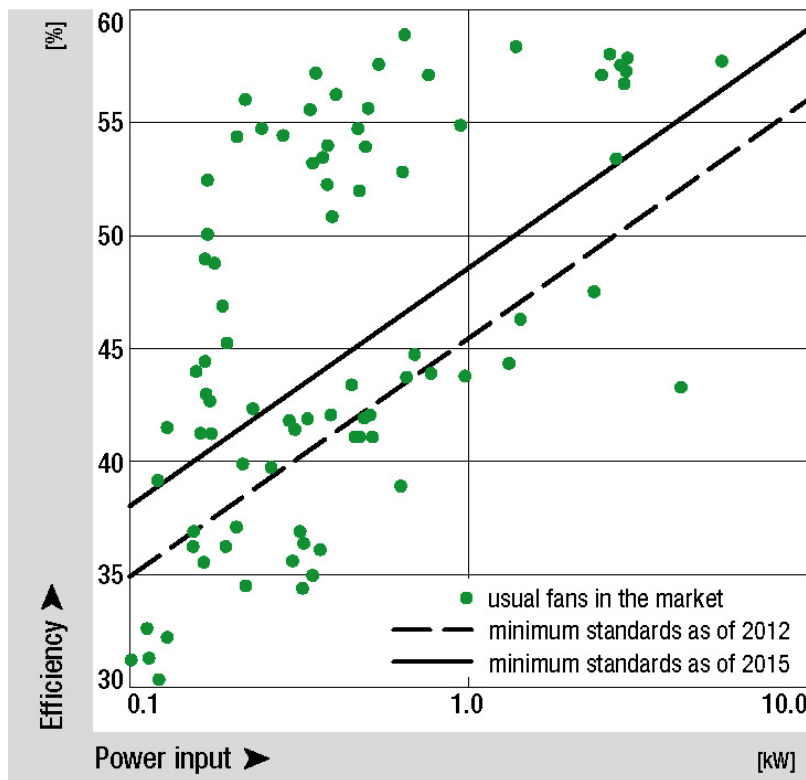
"Moreover, further potential savings can be achieved through the promotion of speed control system technologies, which is also stipulated in the directive. The most famous technologies are, for example, the frequency inverter or the even more efficient EC Technology", states Uwe Sigloch, Market Manager at ebm-papst in Mulfingen. "The fans with EC Technology, which have already been available from ebm-papst for many years, achieve maximum efficiency and even today fulfil the efficiency requirements of the future. Furthermore, the directive ensures that energy-hungry products, including those imported from other countries, can no longer be put on the market", Sigloch continued.

Sigloch also noted that the willingness on the part of customers to purchase higher-priced energy-efficient products has increased significantly. "This is due, among other things, to the fact that energy costs rise continuously and our

customers meanwhile take energy consumption during the service life into account when considering costs", said Sigloch. Beside the reduction in operating costs, the fans of the new generation are easier to regulate, significantly quieter and more reliable than conventional solutions.

Company head Beilke considers the bold implementation of high limit values to be decisive for safeguarding highly qualified workplaces in Europe: "Concentrating on energy-efficient products would reduce the pressure to relocate production to other countries and would make sure that qualified jobs could remain in Europe."

Illustration: As shown by the cloud-like distribution of efficiencies of ebm-papst centrifugal fans, deciding on a high threshold with minimum requirements would also challenge ebm-papst, but the company would be able to cope with this.



About the ebm-papst group

The ebm-papst Group is the world's leading manufacturer of fans and motors and is a pioneer and a pacesetter for ultra-efficient EC technology. In the fiscal year 08/09, the company achieved a turnover of 1.056 billion EUR. ebm-papst employs nearly 9,250 employees at 17 production sites (including those in Germany, China and the USA) and 57 sales offices world-wide. Products of the global market leader are represented in many industries, including ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration technology, household appliances, heating engineering, in IT/telecommunications applications, as well as those in automotive and commercial vehicle engineering.

Further information at www.ebmpapst.com or from Hauke Hannig – hauke.hannig@de.ebmpapst.com – 07938-81-7105