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MEDIA RELEASE

**SOUTH AFRICA SAVES
WITH ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCE LABELLING**

Minerals and Energy Minister, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, today announced the introduction of a system of standards and labelling to promote the manufacture and purchase of energy efficient products across the residential, commercial and industrial markets. Appliance Labelling, a key initiative developed under the framework of the national Energy Efficiency Strategy, will focus initially on the residential sector, which accounts for 17% of South Africa's energy consumption. Informative labels will be displayed on electrical appliances indicating their energy efficiency.

Refrigerators will be the first appliances to display the energy efficiency label – 65,6%¹ of all South African households own refrigerators and a refrigerator is usually one of the first appliances to be purchased when a home is electrified.

When purchasing an appliance, the two major costs to consider are the purchase price and the operating, or running, cost. Over its life, a major appliance will consume hundreds, even thousands of Rands worth of electricity. South African consumers, on purchasing a refrigerator, will be able to judge the energy efficiency of the appliance and take this into consideration when comparing the lifecycle costs of similar products.

¹ SAARF AMPS 2004

Energy efficient products also have an important role to play in the environmental sustainability of South Africa. Electricity production contributes a significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions world-wide. European studies indicate that an average refrigerator, through its electricity consumption, generates a volume of Carbon Dioxide (CO²) equivalent to its loading capacity, each day. An energy efficient refrigerator decreases the consumption of electricity and thus the generation of CO².

To determine the energy efficiency of a refrigerator, consumers will be able to consult the energy efficiency label affixed to the shop floor's display model. The label will detail the product's energy efficiency grading, from A down to G – with G being the poorest performing product in electricity terms. The label will also contain more specific information such as the consumption of kilowatts per hour. An 'A –graded' product offers customers better electricity consumption resulting in both financial and environmental savings.

The South African label is identical to the informative label used in EU member states with the EU flag replaced by our unique South African symbol. The standards, which set a minimum efficiency level which appliance manufacturers must meet in order to sell their products for refrigerators, have also been adopted from the European market.

The testing of appliances is identical to that of Europe and will be conducted in South Africa by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) and two independent test houses. The test houses have the necessary capacity for this new testing as they already have undergone training overseas in the test-procedures.

Participation in the Appliance Labelling initiative is currently voluntary, with mandatory participation expected to be legislated within the next 18 -24 months. Manufacturers and retailers have agreed, in principle, to begin displaying the energy efficiency labels on refrigerators that have already been graded in Europe and on other fridges once they receive their grading from the South African certified test houses. The industry will monitor itself until the legislation comes into being.

The DME, SABS, manufacturers and retailers and other stakeholders are currently developing the standards and testing procedures for washing machines, tumble driers and electrical stoves. These household appliances are likely to be the next range in the Appliance Labelling initiative.

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