



SPEx Overview of: Leveraging Product Databases to Improve the Effectiveness of Appliance Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs

20 November 2014, 11:30–13:30 GMT

A number of product databases have been developed and are maintained by governments around the world, which are built either for internal governmental use or that are accessible to the public. These databases represent authoritative sources of information about the energy performance and other characteristics of individual product models commercially available in select markets. These databases can be used for multiples purposes, for example:

- Certification databases, to collect national or regional information on compliant or non-compliant products on the market;
- Product databases for modelling purposes, enabling governments to connect sales and efficiency trends to help inform the development of future policies; and
- Consumer information databases, to enable smart and informed purchasing decision-making by consumers, by using consumer mobile apps and online comparison tools.

SEAD has been assessing different database tools in use and has carried out an analysis on how to maximize the impacts of these databases. The SEAD Data Access project found that if different country databases were to follow a similar data framework, data might be more easily compared between different countries and regions. As part of this work, a data standard has been developed for TVs and air conditioners to explore how this might work in practice. By implementing a common data framework in multiple regions, further uses to product databases are envisaged, such as:

- Enabling access to other countries' product ratings and certifications for monitoring and verification needs, as well as to help inform policy design;
- Building product certification tools using other countries' certification data, particularly for use at point of import/customs for those countries that have only imports and no manufacturing; and
- Facilitating the comparison of product rating methods across countries.

In the first SEAD Policy Exchange Forum, four governments (Australia, US, India and China - tentative) will present the approaches they have taken to their national product databases, answering questions such as: what data is stored in their database and for which products; how they collect the data and how often it is updated; what the database is used for and by whom; and what are the particular strengths and benefits of their databases, as well as the challenges.

Some key questions for all to consider before joining the discussion:

- What are the key considerations for developing a database?
- What are the main reasons for not establishing a database?
- Are there any databases currently under development that might benefit from a common framework?