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# EELA WEBINAR SERIES

## "Upscaling Uptake of EE Appliances and Equipment through MEPS and Labels Implementation"

*Lessons Learnt from South Africa (NRCS)*
*on MEPS and Labels Program including PRS*

**Presented by:**
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**Date:** 15 July 2025
**Location:** Virtual



"Protecting health, Safety, the Environment and ensuring Fair Trade"

# Presentation Outline

1. Overview of MEPS program
2. Appliance Labeling
3. Lessons Learnt

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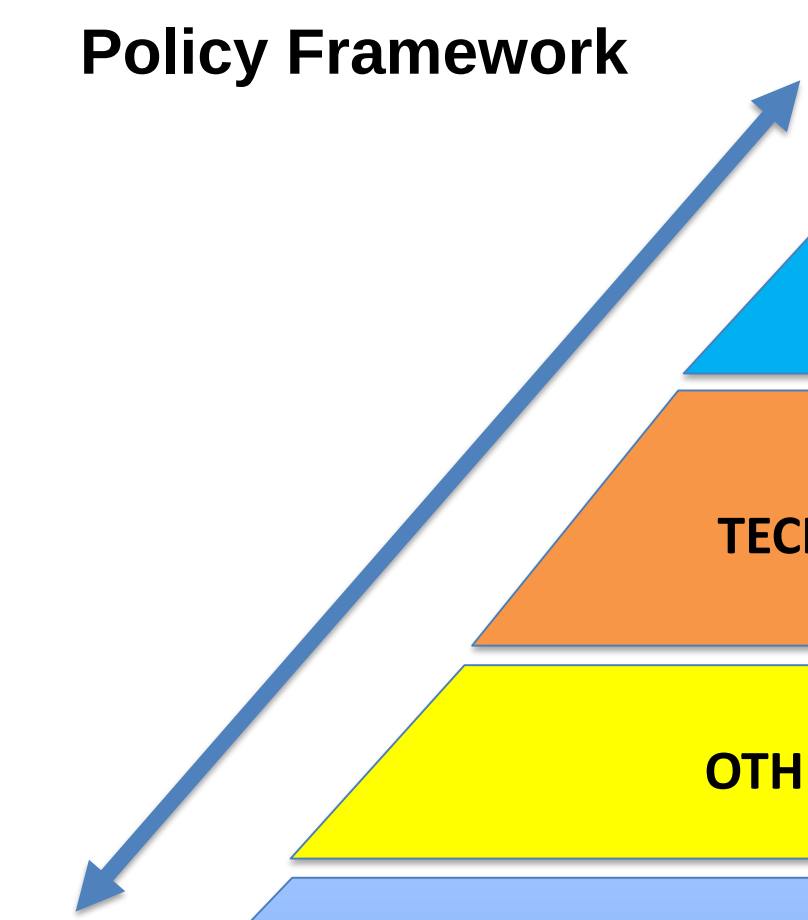
# 1. Overview of South African Standards and Labeling Program



"Protecting health, Safety, the Environment and ensuring Fair Trade"

# RSA EE Policy Context

## Policy Framework



**Constitution**

E.g. Bill of rights - "conducive environment", Chapter 2, Section 24

**ACTS**

- National Energy Act
- NRCS Act
- EMA

**TECHNICAL REGULATIONS**

- VC 9006: Water heaters
- VC 9008: white goods
- VC 9109 : GSLs
- VC 9113: electric motors

**OTHER POLICY PRESCRIPTS**

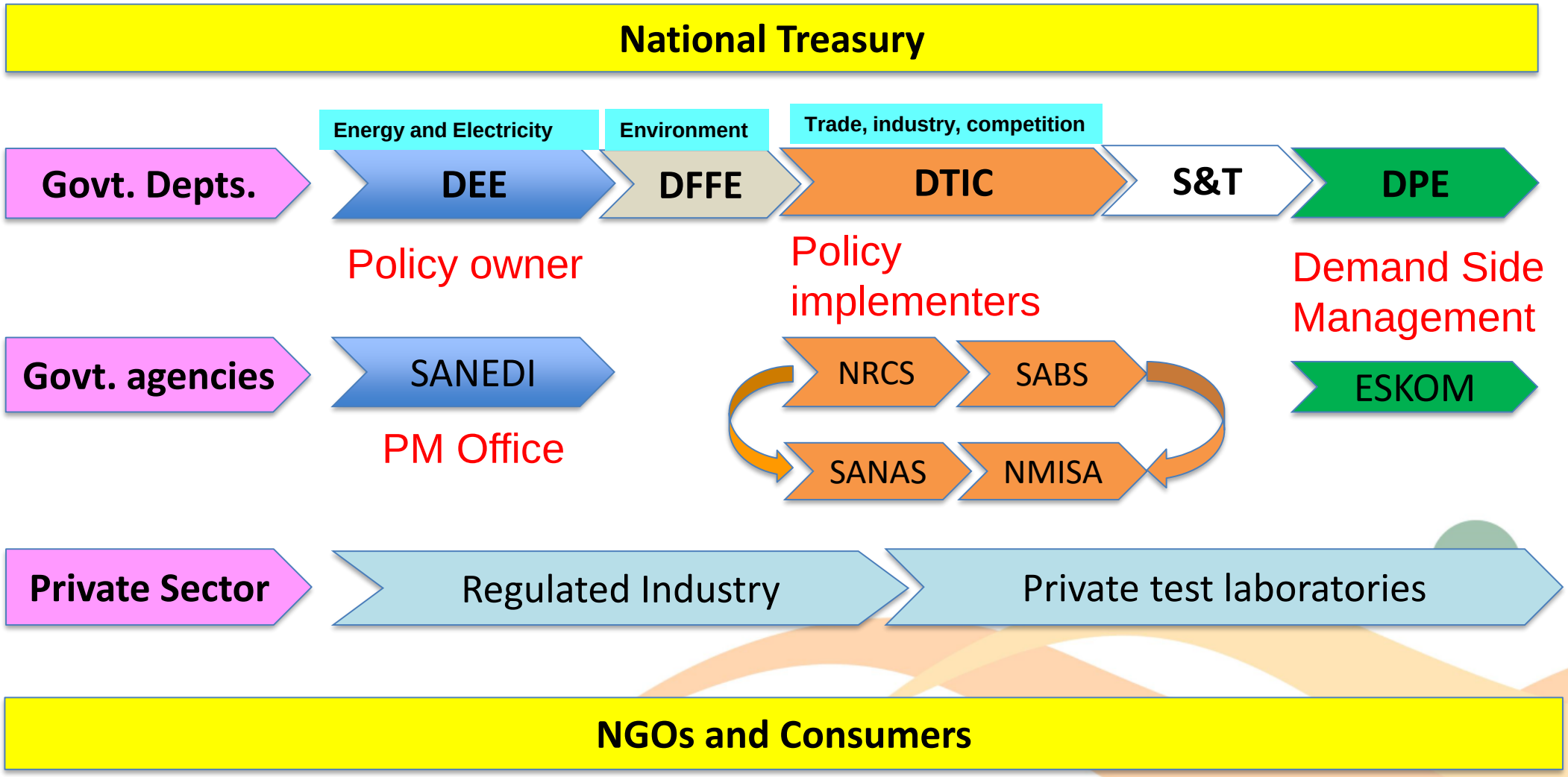
- National EE Strategy
- DMRE Label Guide
- Framework Agreement

**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS**

- UN Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Agenda
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Super Efficient Appliance Labeling Development (SEAD)

# S&L Program stakeholder map

**Concurrent mandates and interests from different stakeholders**



# NRCS Regulatory scope

**BU Mission**
Enforce VCs in electrical and electronic technology areas

**REGULATORY MANDATE**
- NRCS Act 5 of 2008
- Legal Metrology Act
- Delegated by OGAs

~600 products within scope

**SAFETY** | **HEALTH** | **ENVIRONMENT** | **FAIR TRADE**

**16 VCs**

**Safety of produc6**
- Household Appliances
- Power Tools
- Transportable Power Tools
- IT and Business Equipment
- Audio and Visual Equipment
- Lighting Equipment
- Handheld Power Tools
- Electrical /Electronic Products,.

**4 VCs**
**16 products**

**Energy Efficiency**
VC 9008- appliances
VC 9006 - geysers
VC 9109 – GSLs
VC 9113 – Electric motors

**WIP VCs**
- Street lighting

**Electrotech Business Unit**
**- 21 market surveillance inspectors**
**- 13 Approvals inspectors**

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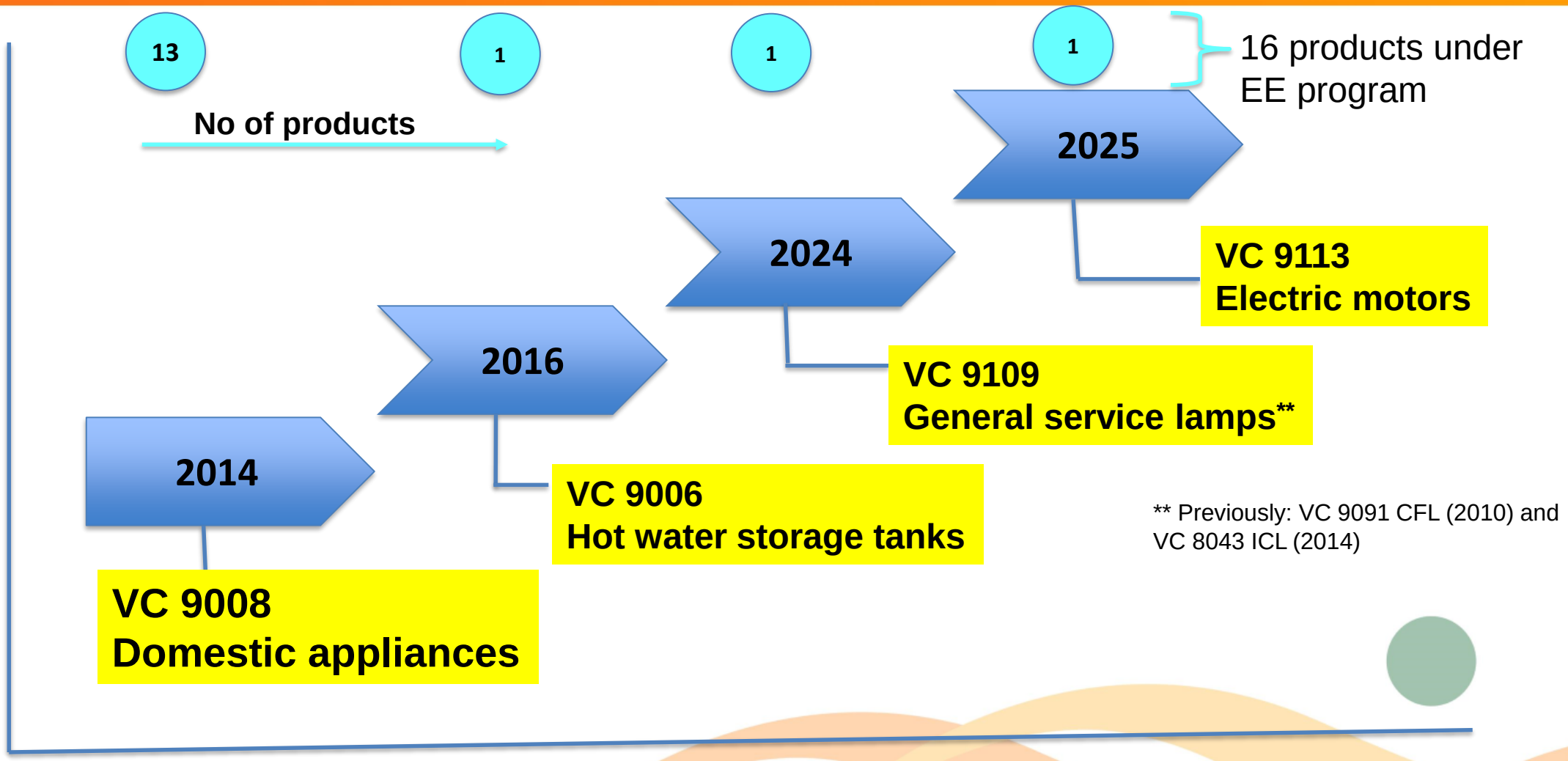
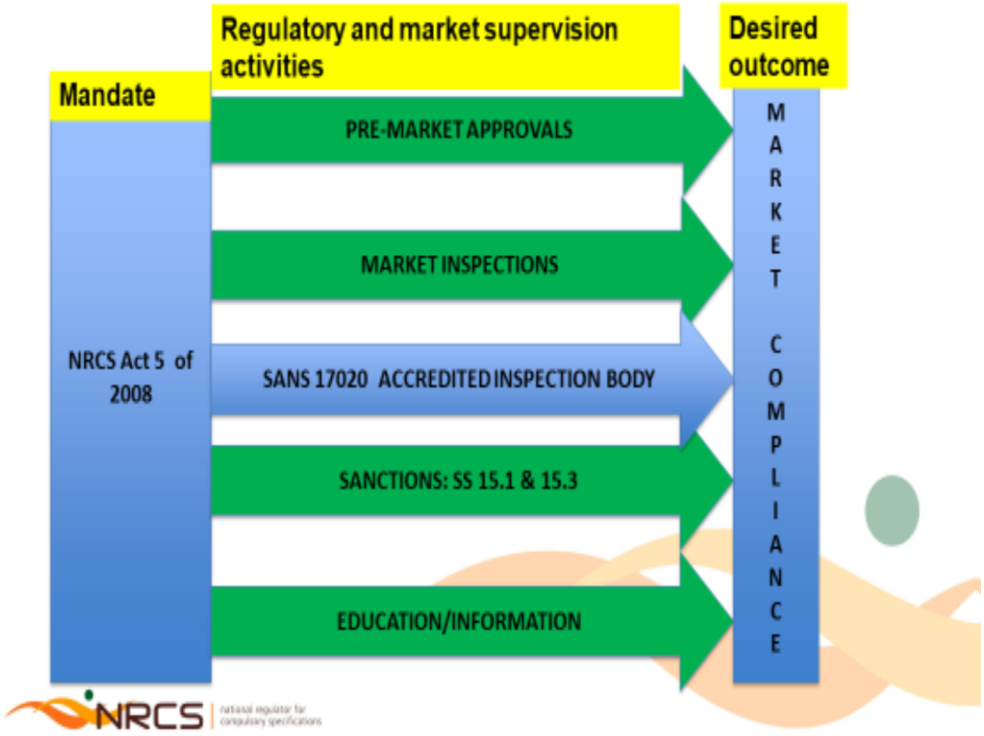
# Timeline of current mandatory MEPS in South Africa



# NRCS regulatory approach

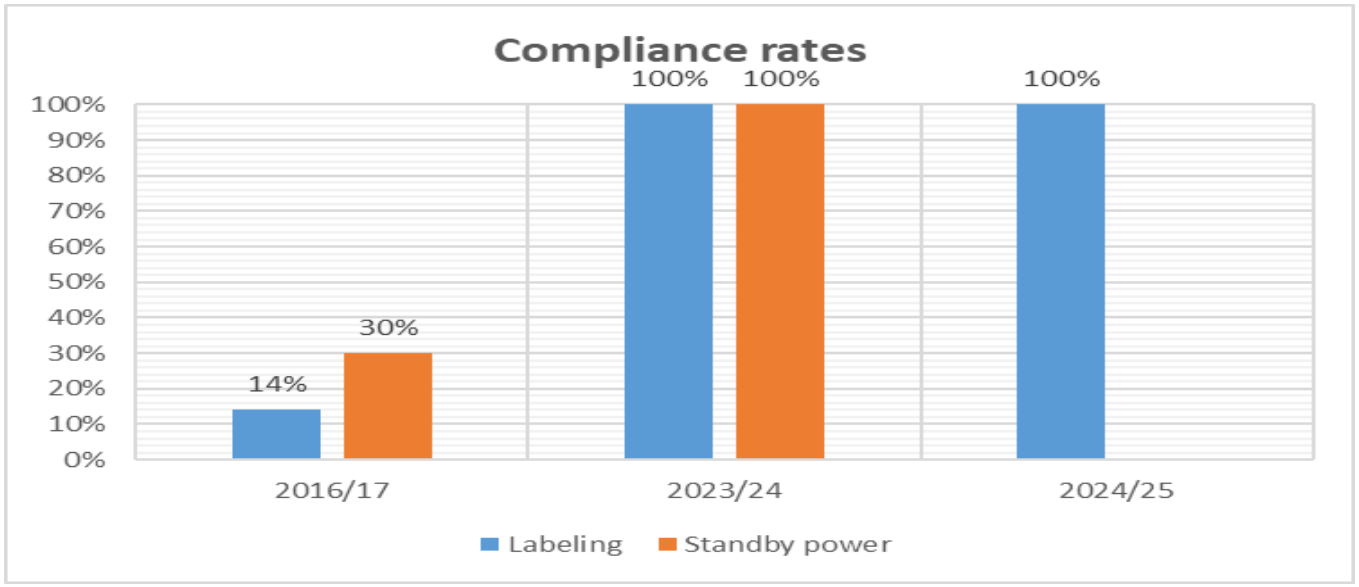
## Quality infrastructure lattice


## Overview of regulatory approach




- System of interrelated mandates with reciprocal and pooled interdependencies.
- NRCS occupies the regulatory function in the QI lattice, operationalizing EE Policy by implementing and administering energy efficiency technical regulations.
- QI institutions report to the same government department(ministry)

# Some experiences from the field




- Millions of ICL/CFLs destroyed since inception
- Inspectors still find some ICLs on the market
- Testing constraints for some products e.g. air conditioners and laundry
- Equipment
- Target to conduct 800 annual inspections on energy efficiency regulations
- Conduct 2 major blitz operations on energy efficiency products annually

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# 2. Energy Efficiency Appliance Registration Database

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EELA Webinar Series 07.2025

"Protecting health, Safety, the Environment and ensuring Fair Trade"

# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Overview

**Energy Efficiency (EE) Appliance Registration Database** is an online system for submitting Letter of Authority (LOA) applications.

- The **EE Appliance Registration Online Database** was launched on the 1st of April 2021.
- Pilot testing phase:
  - Conducted with internal and external stakeholders to validate the **system functionality**
  - Dummy applications were submitted and evaluated to **simulate real use**
  - Feedback received was used to **refine the system** for broad implementation.

# EE Appliance Registration Online Database System Functional Portals

**Operational**

**Not yet developed**

## Applicant Portal

Applicant submit LOA applications

01

## Regulator Portal

Evaluation of LOA applications and reporting

02

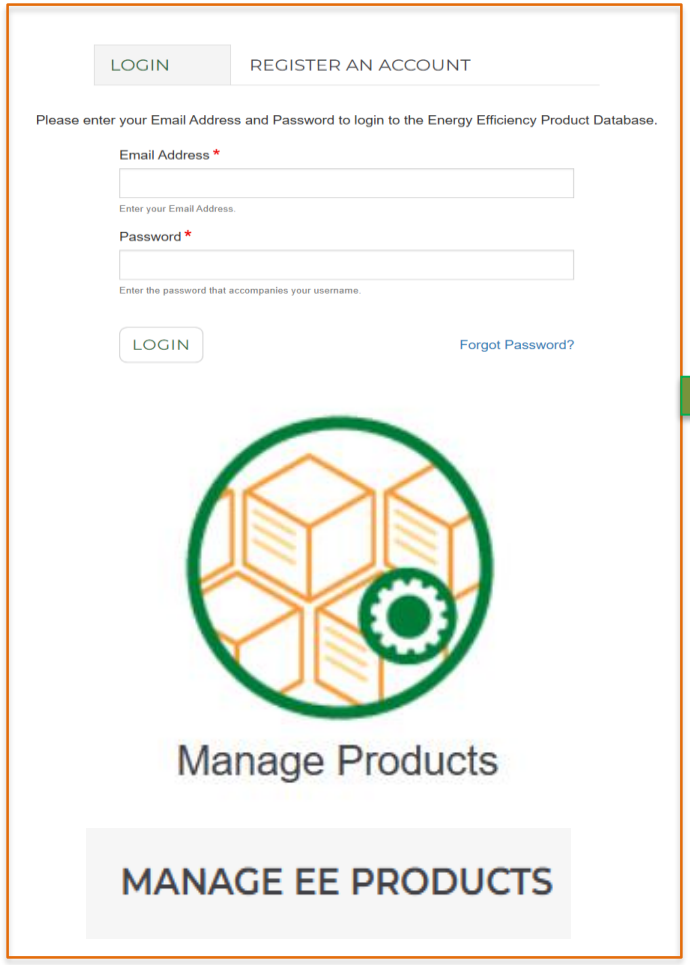
## Public Portal

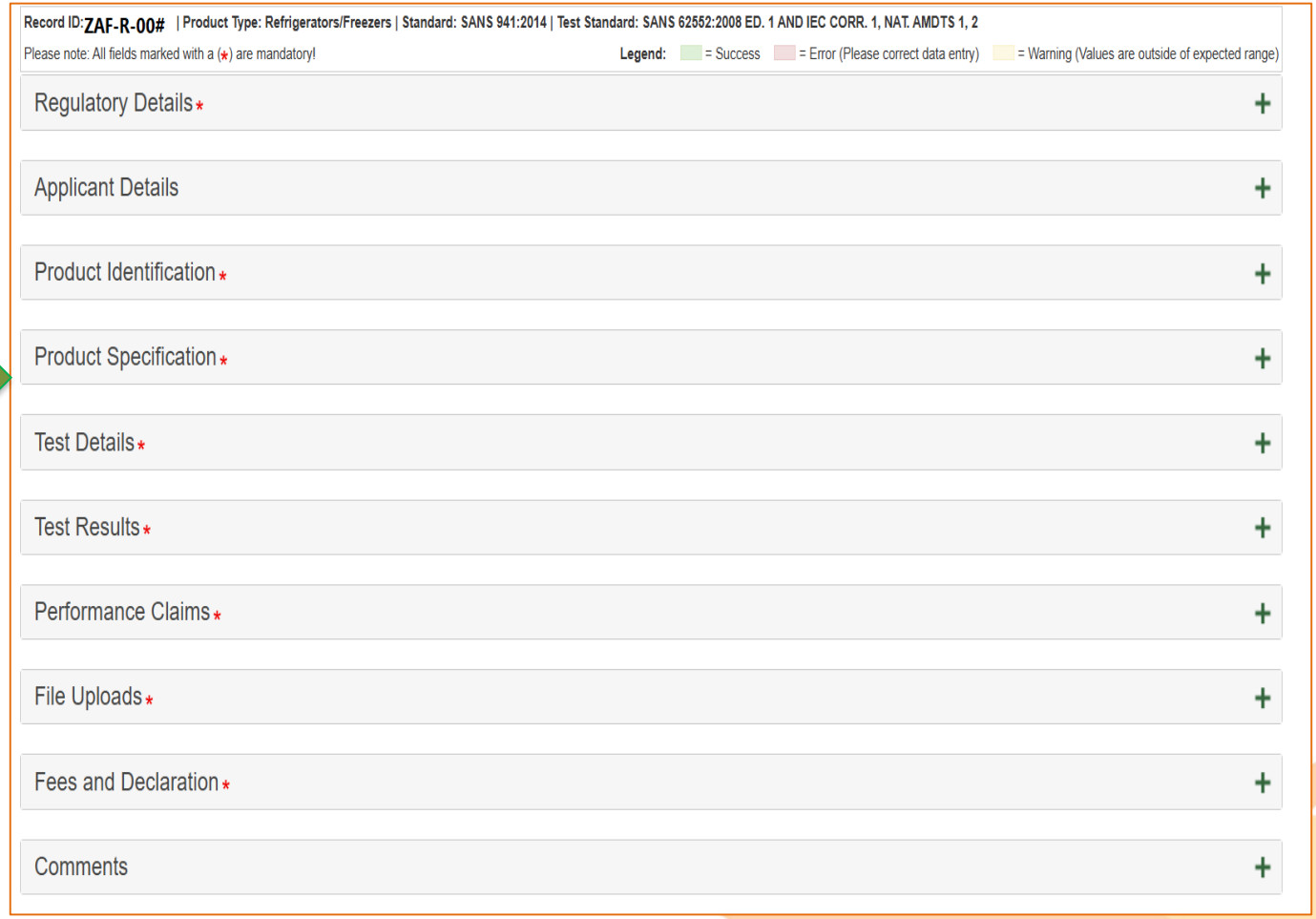
The public can view which products have EE LOAs and view MEPS

03

# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Structure and Input Fields

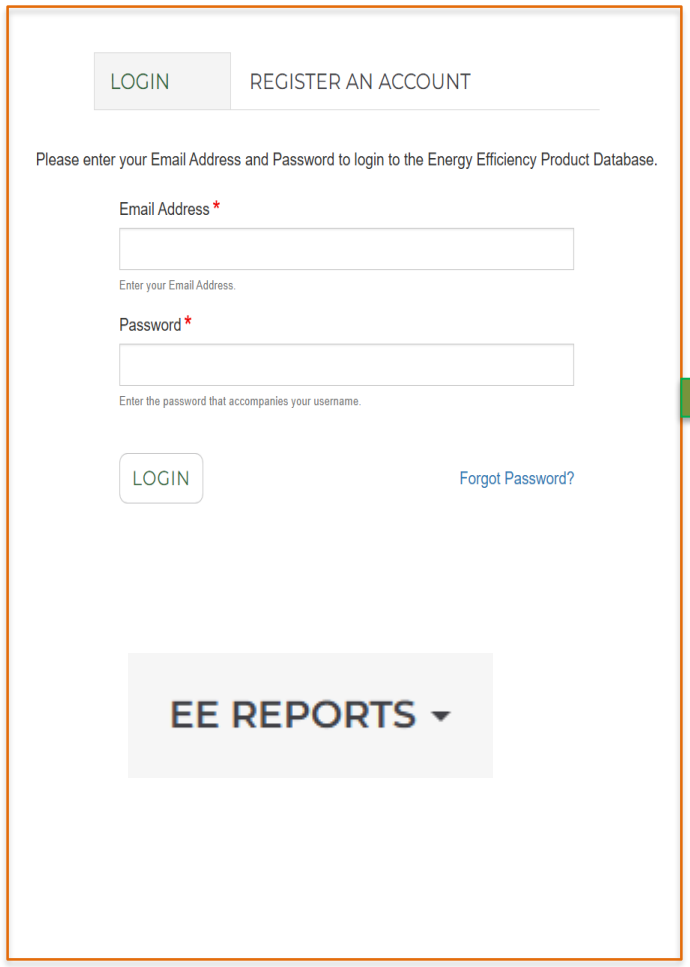
Illustration of the EE Appliance Registration Online Database Structure and Input Fields:
**Applicant and Regulator Portals**

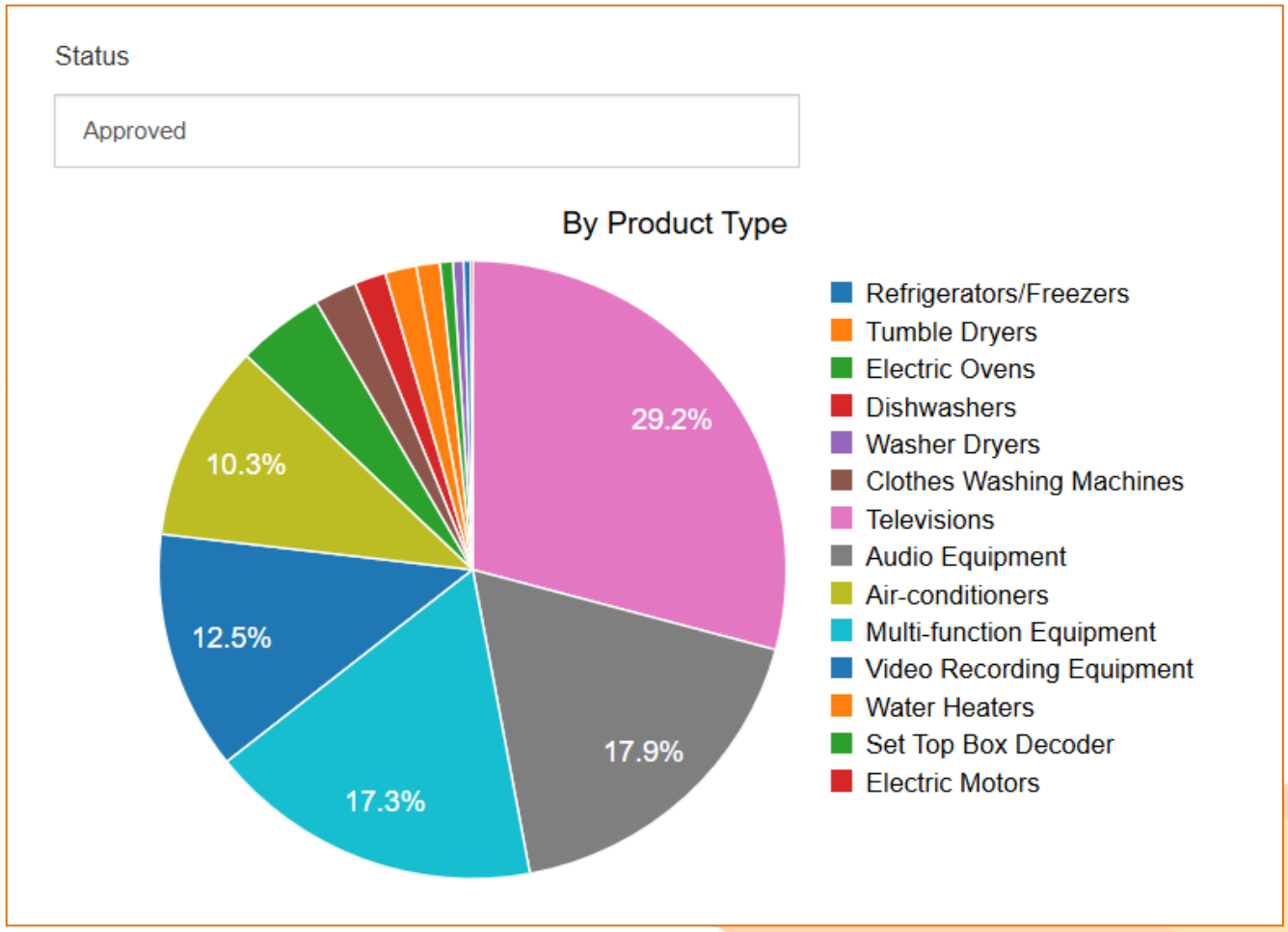


# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Structure and Input Fields

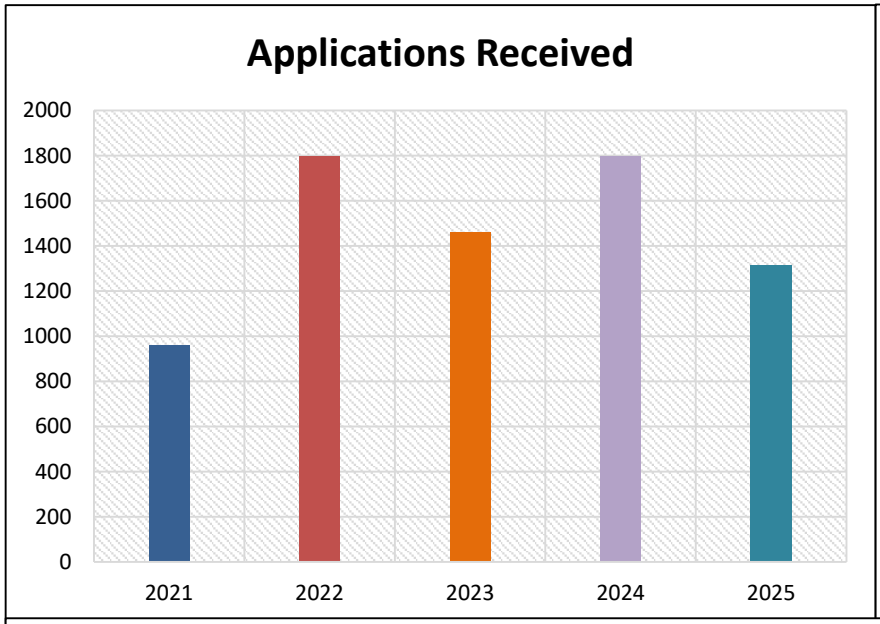
Illustration of the EE Appliance Registration Online Database Structure and Input Fields:
**Regulator Portal: Reports**

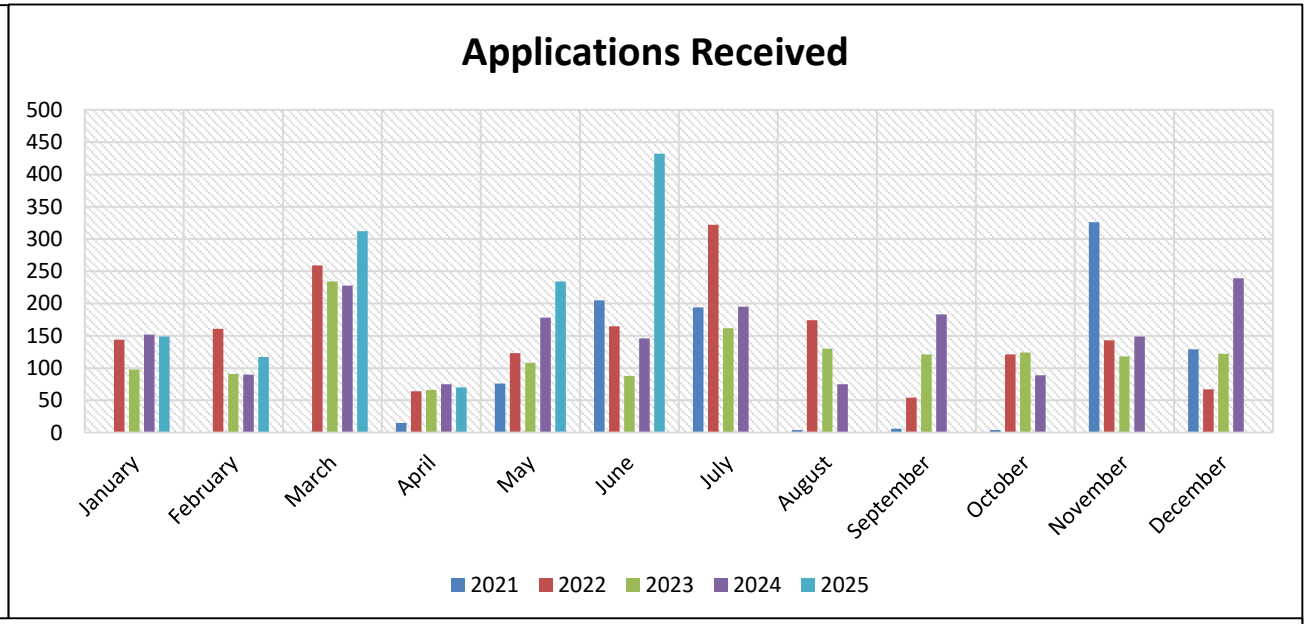


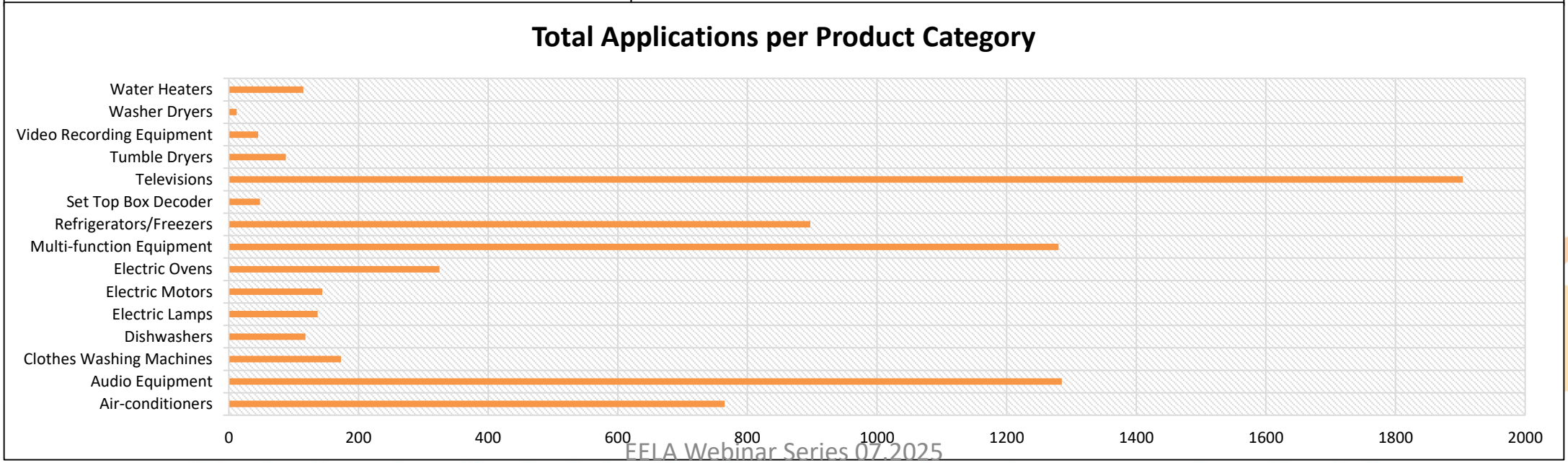



# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Statistics

01 April 2021 – 30 June 2025: **7331** applications received.



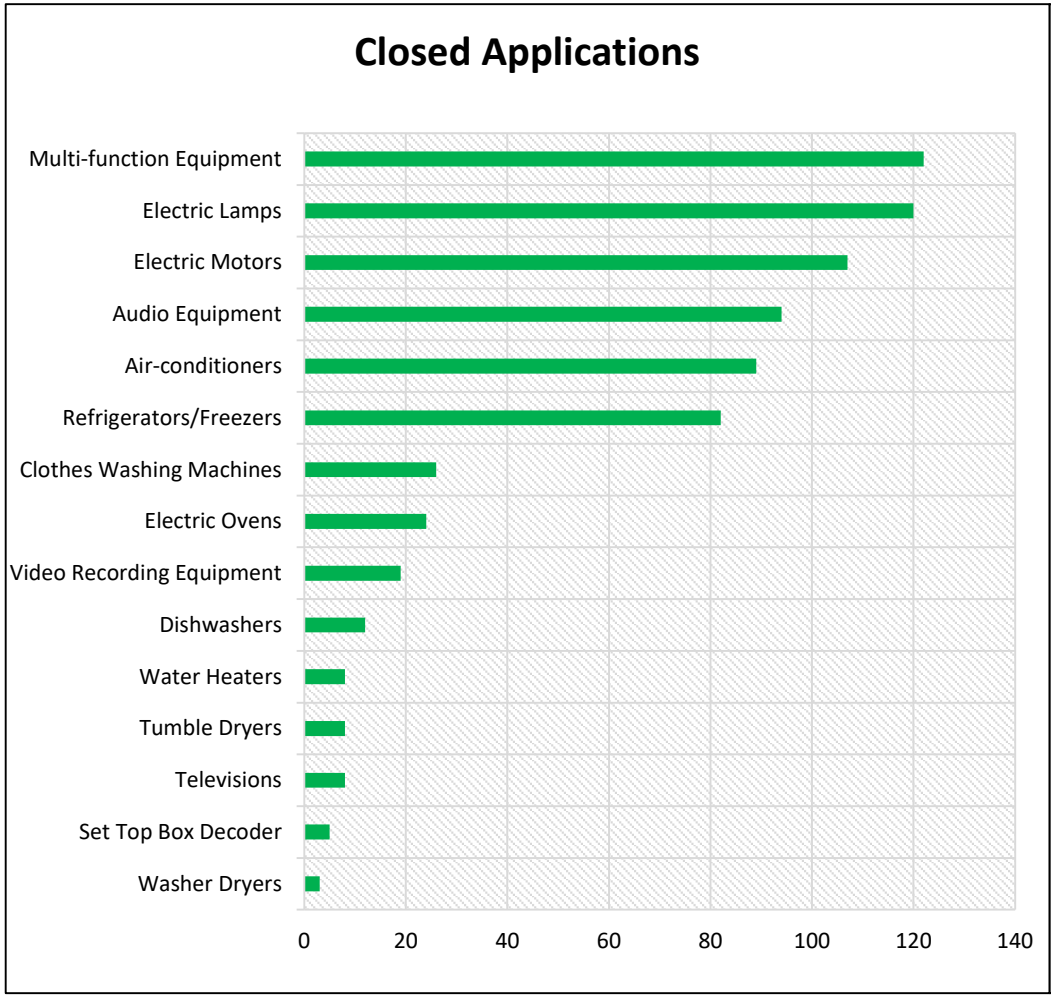



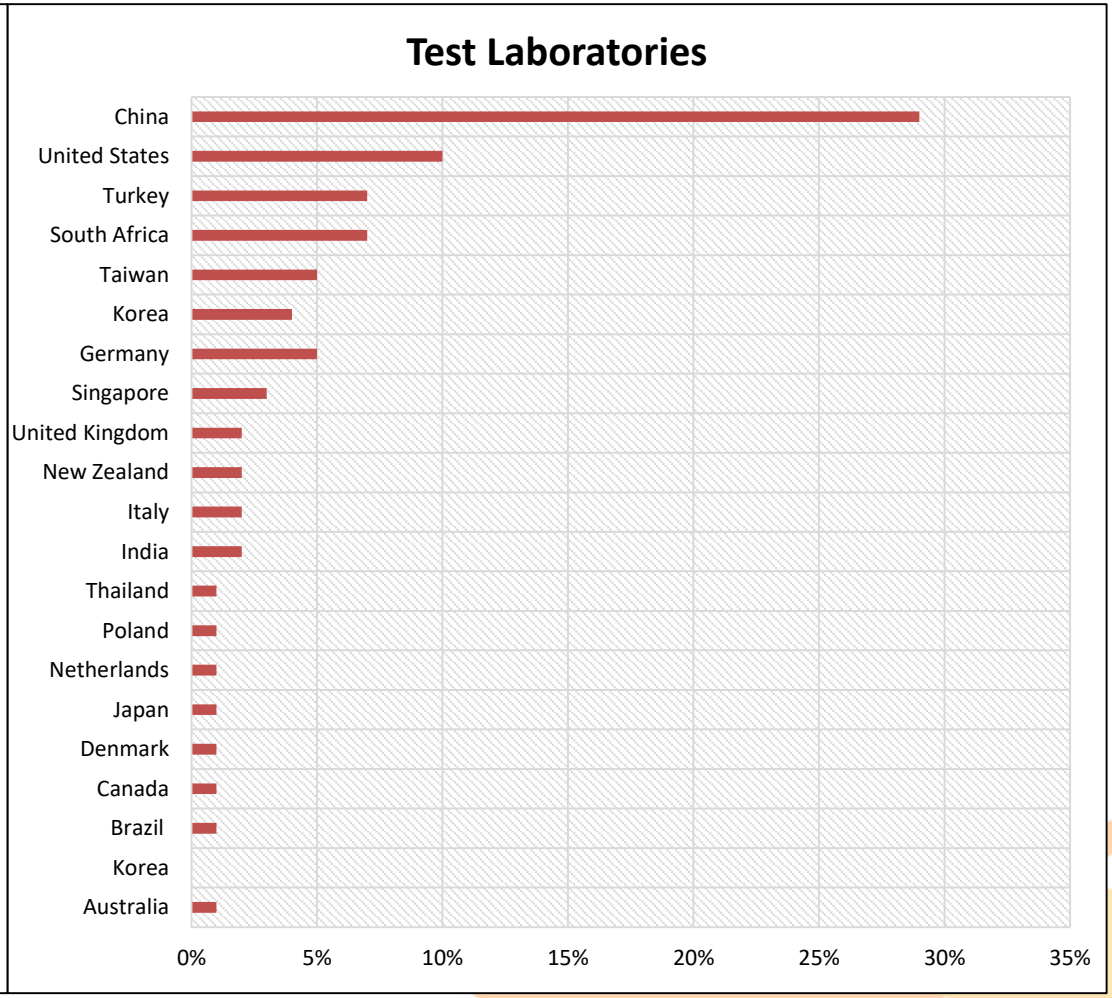



# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Statistics

Using the system as a strategic regulatory tool:

- Closed applications = targeted inspections
- Test laboratories = need for national testing capacity



# EE Appliance Registration Online Database Statistics

## Advantages

- Faster application processing and LOA issuance
- Real-time tracking of application status
- Reduced human error through online submissions
- Faster turnaround time
- Easily accessible
- Reporting

## Challenges

- Applicants unfamiliar with standards terminology
- Submissions with errors or misinterpretation of requirements
- System updates to reflect new regulatory scopes – EE Label MEPS
- Applications submitted with incomplete or invalid documents causing delays in processing the applications
- Clients requiring ongoing support to keep up with the system

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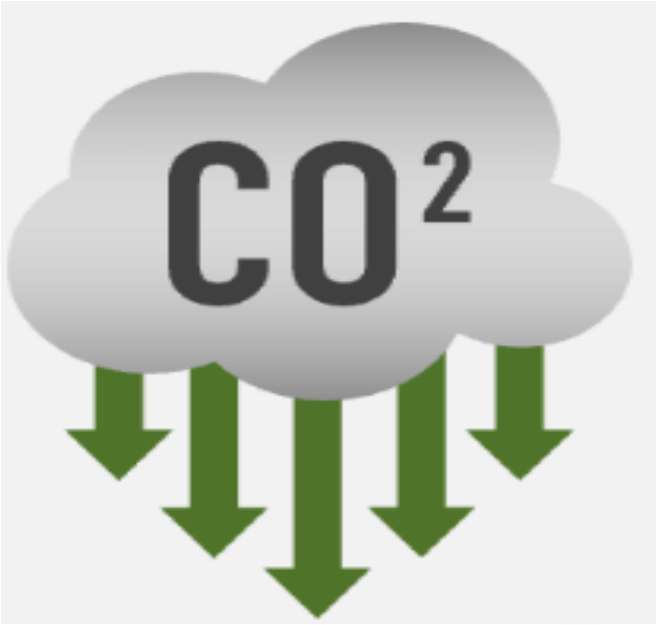
# 3. LESSONS LEARNT

# General lessons/challenges

1. **Concurrent and overlapping mandates** and interests require continuous coordination between the different agencies and interest groups
2. **Pressure groups**, e.g. from regulatees themselves, is necessary to keep the regulatory system operational and effective
3. **Communication** of results is important to keep stakeholders aware that the system is working
4. It is important to keep abreast of **global best practice**
5. **Industry readiness** should not be taken for granted, at the 11th hour industry may spring a surprise, and claim they are not ready for new policy implementation.
6. The problem of **repeat offenders**
7. **Understanding the industry** before implementing regulations
8. **Agile regulatory** model may be required for different products
9. The proliferation of **AI** systems require regulatory response

# EE Appliance Registration Online Database

1. Stakeholder involvement in the development process
2. Training and support
3. Use the system as strategic regulatory tool
4. Communication for smooth transition
5. Incorporate cost savings
6. Incorporate a carbon emission calculator
7. Need for public portal



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# Thank you