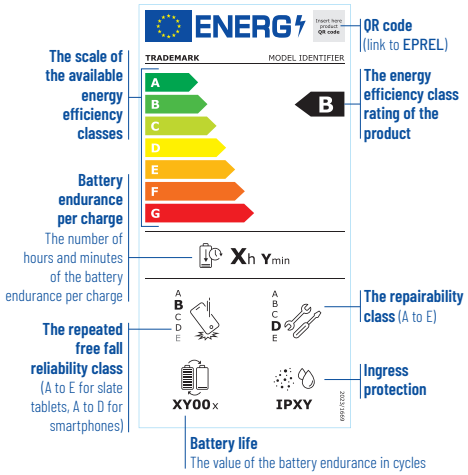
New energy label for smartphones & slate tablets

Explanations for Consumers

The new energy label for smartphones and slate tablets provides valuable information including battery lifetime, robustness against damage and repairability

The new energy label – Overview

The new energy label for smartphones and slate tablets, introduced in June 2025, provides various information on energy efficiency and product quality (see label illustration below). In addition to energy efficiency, the repairability, resistance to damage, and battery durability strongly influence a device's useful lifetime and environmental impact. The label also includes a QR-code that allows you to access the EU database for energy labelled products (EPREL). This EPREL database provides more product information and allows you to search for specific products.



Example of an energy efficiency arrow

The energy label information in detail

Energy efficiency

As for washing machines and many other products, the energy label for smartphones and tablets shows the device's efficiency on a scale from A (best) to G (worst). The label must be displayed both in physical stores and in online shops; however, in online shops usually only an arrow indicating the specific efficiency class is shown (see illustration above on the right). By clicking on the arrow, you can access the full label.

Battery runtime

The average operational runtime of a fully charged new battery is indicated in the middle part of the label. In practice, the runtime may vary depending on the type of specific apps used, as well as on display brightness, network conditions, and signal strength. The value shown on the label is measured under standardized test conditions and is intended for comparison.

Battery lifetime

The battery lifetime shown in the lower-left corner of the energy label indicates the declared number of charging cycles until the battery has less than 80 % of its original charging capacity. A charging cycle does not correspond to a single plug-in event, but to the equivalent of a total use of 100% of the battery capacity, which may be accumulated through several partial charges. After the indicated number of charging cycles, the battery may still be functional, but with a significantly lower capacity.

Robustness against damage

The label also includes an indicator for robustness against accidental drops. Robustness is rated from A (best) to D for smartphones and to E for tablets, with D and E being the lowest classes. Robustness refers to full device functionality after a defined number of drops from a height of 1 m. Class A non-foldable smartphones must remain fully functional after 270 drops.

Ingress protection

The ingress protection class on the label shows how well the device is protected against ingress of liquids and dust. The first digit indicates robustness against solid objects and goes from 0 (no protection) to 6 (dust-tight). The second digit indicates robustness against water and goes from 0 (no protection) to 8 (protection against continuous immersion, 1 m or more depth).

Repairability

Repairability of the device is also shown in classes A (best) to E (worst). The repairability indicates how easily essential components of a smartphone or tablet can be disassembled and re-assembled. Furthermore, devices get a better rating if a broader range of spare parts is made available also for end users. For devices that are easy to repair, the repair time for professionals – and consequently the repair costs – will be lower.

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Support to be provided by suppliers in case of repair

Available spare parts

The following spare parts are available for at least 7 years after the end of placement of the product model on the market. Spare parts marked with (x) also must be directly available for repair by consumers:

- Battery (x)
- Back cover, Back cover assembly (x)
- Display assembly (x)
- Protective foil for foldable displays (x)
- SIM tray, memory card tray (x)
- Charger (x)
- Cameras
- External audio connectors
- External charging ports
- Mechanical buttons
- Main microphones
- Speakers
- Hinge assembly
- Mechanical display folding mechanism

Batteries may be made available only to professional repairers if the supplier confirms full protection against dust and water ingress up to an immersion depth of 1 m. In this case the supplier must also confirm a maximum 20 % reduction of the charging capacity after 1 000 charging cycles.

Spare parts must be delivered by suppliers within a maximum of 5 to 10 working days.

For at least five years after the end of placement of a specific product model on the market, if the manufacturer provides security, corrective or functionality updates, these updates must be made available to consumers free of charge and within defined time limits. If you have bought a remainder product, the duration might be lower.

Costs of spare parts

The costs of spare parts often are a significant part of the total repair costs. Since 2025 consumers can check prices for spare parts and repair tools on free accessible websites of suppliers, also indicated on the EPREL page of the specific product model.

New basic quality requirements for smartphones and tablets

The new legislation also requires that all smartphones and tablets newly offered for sale since June 2025 in the EU must fulfil the following minimum quality criteria:

- Battery capacity after 800 charging cycles must be at least 80 % of declared.
- Ingress protection must prevent ingress of particles >1 mm and water splashes.
- Resistance against scratches must be at least level 4 on the Mohs hardness scale.
- Smartphones must remain fully functional after 45 drops from a height of 1 m. Foldable phones must withstand 35 drops in the folded state and 15 drops in the unfolded state.
- An optional charging feature must be selectable that terminates the charging process automatically when the battery reaches 80 % of its full capacity.

Photo by Tima Miroshnichenko / pexels

Exemptions and links for further information

- **The new requirements only apply to devices placed on the EU market from 20th of June 2025 onwards.**
- **Smartphones and tablets with a flexible main display which is rollable and smartwatches are exempted from the labelling and all other requirements.**
- **Products with an energy label must be registered by suppliers in the *EPREL* database.**

Important links

EU-Product database: https://eprel.ec.europa.eu/screen/product/smartphonestablets20231669

EU-Info-Portal for labelled products: https://energy-efficient-products.ec.europa.eu/consumers_en

EU-Regulations for smartphones & tablets: **Ecodesign (EU) 2023/1670** und **Energy labelling (EU) 2023/1669**

This guidance does not replace the applicable requirements in the regulations.

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