PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FOURTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS’ MEETING
(Apia, Samoa, 18–20 September 2019)

AGENDA ITEM E8 – PACIFIC APPLIANCE LABELLING AND STANDARDS - ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(Submitted by Pacific Community)

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to update and seek Energy Ministers’ support on the use of labelling and standards on electrical appliances in the Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs).

Background

2. During the Third Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers’ Meeting in April 2017, the Ministers agreed to hastening national processes for the adoption and enforcement of legislation on harmonised performance standards and energy labelling of electrical appliances in PICTs, and encouraged PICTs to support the funding proposal for submission to the GCF.

3. The Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) Programme, a regional program funded by the Australian Government, and implemented by SPC, has been assisting PICTs since 2012 to adopt a harmonized performance standards and energy labelling of electrical appliances covering refrigerators, freezers, lights and air conditioning units.

Current status

4. With the assistance of the PALS Programme (2012 – June 2019), five PICs have adopted legislation on labelling and standards and are enforcing their legislations. Fiji was the first country to adopt their appliance standards and energy labelling legislation for refrigerators and freezers in 2012. This was followed by Tuvalu and Vanuatu in 2016 and Solomon Islands and Samoa in 2017.

5. Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Niue, and Tonga are working towards adopting their respective legislation.

6. Previously, these PICs had no mechanism in place of identifying more energy-efficient products or restricting the import of inefficient products. The law ensures that household refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and lighting products that meet Australian and New Zealand standards (AS NZS) are imported and used in their countries.

7. The Pacific Appliance Database (PAD), http://pad.spc.int/ an online-registration system was developed and is used by three PICs (Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu). The web facility hosted by SPC allows applicants to make regulated product imports applications quickly and acts as a one-stop shop for countries in terms of information sharing and networking. Other PALS participating countries once their legislation is adopted can use the PAD.

8. The PALS Programme assisted PICs in:
   a) developing national energy efficiency legislation and regulation on minimum energy performance standards and energy labelling (MEPSL);
   b) establishing the administrative structure or processes for the key agencies involved to be clear on their responsibilities and resources to undertake activities such as inspection of...
products at point of import and sale, maintaining a register of products and working with retailers;

   c) building the capacities of governments and retailers to implement the requirements of the appliance standards and energy labelling laws; and

   d) carrying out public awareness activities on energy labelling and standards.


10. The terminal evaluation of the PALS Programme was completed and the report¹ highlighted:
   
   (i) High level political commitment is key to passing MEPSL legislation and to ensuring it operates successfully,

   (ii) PALS is a success story with a recognized “brand” and has been instrumental in expanding MEPSL in the region and has upgraded an entire region’s attention to the value of high efficiency appliances.

   (iii) Despite the challenges faced, the PALS programme logic and activities produced long term tangible and valuable results. Passing MEPSL legislation first establishes a baseline of high efficiency for appliances entering PICs and provides immediate and lasting benefits. Qualitative results from the evaluation, and impact assessments of MEPSL programmes throughout the world, suggest PALS brought good value for money: average cost per PIC was AU$50,000 per year.

11. There is high potential for PICs to link energy efficiency with the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali Amendment², which has been ratified by Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, Palau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu as of 1 July 2019. SPC is working closely with United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to promote the synergizing of the two subject areas. The Kigali Amendment will result in changes in product designs and manufacturing leading to the use of low global warming potential refrigerants that are flammable and toxic in refrigeration and air-conditioning units. The Kigali Amendment also recognizes an opportunity to maintain/enhance energy efficiency of refrigeration and air-conditioners while phasing-down HFCs.

12. The Twinning Workshop of National Ozone Officers and Energy Policymakers for Energy Efficient and Climate-Friendly Cooling for Southeast Asia and PICs, held in February 2019, recommended that, National Ozone Offices and Energy counterparts to work together in the areas of refrigeration and air conditioning such as including national cooling strategies in the PICs and Nationally Determined Contributions (updated every five years), product registration systems, leveraging funding and financing to support cooling-related projects, development and enforcement of policies and regulations, capacity building and awareness.

Issues

13. Enforcing appliance labelling and standards is a new endeavor for most of the PICs and while PICs are committed to labelling and standards, they would like to see the continuation of PALS services until their efforts are further established.

14. Five PICs (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Niue, Tonga) have draft legislations and with some renewed effort, and seeing the success of the other PICs, they may be persuaded to enact their legislations and thereby expand its regional presence. Papua New Guinea, in particular, holds the largest single opportunity for energy savings and GHG reductions in the region.

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² Adopted in October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, and was effective 1st January 2019, to control productions and use of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol. HFCs are greenhouse gases which can have high or very high global warming potentials.
15. The continuation of labelling and standards in PICs is challenged by the following barriers: limited access to finance, consumer affordability, limited financial resources, limited up-to-date data to support continuity of energy efficiency activities, technical knowledge and understanding of labelling and standards.

16. PALS funding through the Government of Australia ended in June 2019 and SPC currently provides advisory roles to PICs on appliance labelling and standards.

17. In order to continue PALS services, SPC is collaborating with SPREP to seek funding from GCF to further support Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu through a regional proposal on labelling and standards. The GCF proposal for Palau has been submitted to the GCF Secretariat with proposal approval targeted at the GCF February 2020 Board meeting for approval. During the Drafting Energy Funding Proposals Workshop\(^3\) in Suva from 9-12 July 2019, several regional and bilateral energy proposals were identified and draft concepts developed. A bilateral concept on financial incentives for labelling and standards for Vanuatu was also developed (with SPC as the accredited entity) and will be finalised for submission to GCF.

18. With further implementation of the Kigali Amendment, it is expected that high-energy efficiency refrigerators and air conditioning units are made with flammable and/or toxic refrigerants. Energy authorities need to work with National Ozone Units to educate the servicing technicians and the consumers on safe handling and use of these energy efficient appliances.

**Recommendations**

19. The meeting is invited to:

i. **Support** regional efforts in expanding minimum energy performance standards and labelling in the region.

ii. **Encourage** National Ozone Offices and Energy counterparts to pursue joint efforts and synergise the national minimum energy performance standards and labelling programme and phasedown of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) refrigerants.

iii. **Encourage** PICTs to embark on appliance labelling and standards as a means to meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions.

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\(^3\) Organised by SPC and attended by 5 country representatives (Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu) and development partners