Hereunder are the questions that were raised during the working session held at the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre on July 25, 2017, as well as the replies of the Energy Efficiency Management Office and of the Mauritius Standards Bureau. Additional information is also provided for the benefit of importers, sellers and resellers of electrical appliances.

**Question 1:** There are different manufacturers all over the world. There are different brands on the market which have their own model numbers. They may have been manufactured by the same factory or different factories. The factories have their own model number and we, as importers, at times, we tend to change the model number. The test certificates are for the model number of the factory. Should we keep the same model number as the factory or should we have another certificate or report from the factory saying that the model numbers are for the same products?

**Reply:** An evidence, in the form of a letter, from the factory certifying that the models are the same may be provided. This letter may be accepted depending on the traceability, i.e. the dealer should prove that the models are similar.

**Question 2:** There are many appliances which have been loaded on the EEIMS since a month. We, as importers, we cannot wait for one month to be able to place our orders or leave our products in our warehouse and not being able to display them. How long will it take to process these applications? You said that the process at the EEMO will take 2-3 days. More staff should be recruited. Also, the process should be a smooth one.

**Reply:** There is one regulated machinery from Mammoth that has already been cleared by the MSB. However no payment has yet been made by the dealer, despite being contacted by the EEMO. It is only after payment would have been made that EEMO can register the regulated machinery.

Dealers have awaited for the last moment to start the process of registration of their appliances and now we are flooded with applications. The need for additional staff does not arise. The number of applications for registration of appliances will significantly reduce with time.

It is not mentioned anywhere that the process will take 2-3 days. However, the EEMO is doing its best to process applications as quickly as possible.

The process is already a smooth one. The EEIMS has been developed in that regard and everything is being done online. Dealers do not have to submit bulky documents in hard copies to the EEMO. Test reports and other documents are being submitted by dealers online through the EEIMS and these are being forwarded by email to the MSB for verification.

**Additional information:**
(i) The regulation were made since January 05, 2017 and dealers were invited to start the registration process through the EEIMS to prevent flooding of requests in July 2017.

(ii) Applications for registration are being considered on a first come first serve basis.

(iii) The regulations came into operation on July 01, 2017. If the firm order of the products in the dealer’s warehouse was placed after July 01, 2017 and received during July 2017, the products will have to be registered with the EEMO and affixed with a label before being put on display for sale. However, if the order was placed before July 01, 2017 and the products are presently in the warehouse of the dealer, the requirements for registration and labelling will not apply and the dealer will have 9 months, starting from July 01, 2017 to sell the product. The dealer may also opt to register the product and affix a label to it.

**Question 3:** What will be the cost of testing an appliance at the MSB?

**Reply:** It will be in the range of Rs 7,000 to 10,000.

**Question 4:** In 2014, the law has been implemented on a voluntary basis. You have said that the number of appliances not conforming to the regulation has gone down. Do you have any figure or statistics to prove it?

**Reply:** No law was made in 2014. The labelling scheme was launched and was on a voluntary basis.

**Additional information:** The statistics are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appliance</td>
<td>Qty imported</td>
<td>Without EEI levy</td>
<td>With EEI levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air conditioner</td>
<td>34709</td>
<td>33666</td>
<td>1043</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwasher</td>
<td>2168</td>
<td>2153</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamps</td>
<td>1687433</td>
<td>1107044</td>
<td>580389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovens</td>
<td>29879</td>
<td>28085</td>
<td>1794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerators</td>
<td>37561</td>
<td>37170</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumble dryer</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question 5:** I have different dimensions for EU labels. I would like to know if it is acceptable to have different sizes.

**Reply:** The dimensions of the labels are set in the standards and these have to be abided to.

**Additional information:** The dimensions specified in the standards are the minimum ones. A larger format is allowed but the contents should remain proportionate to the specifications/dimensions provided in the standards.
**Question 6:** Is it the job of a reseller or of the dealer to put the label?

**Reply:** As a reseller, you are also a dealer as per the definition provider in the Act. It is an obligation of the importer to provide resellers with labels. Resellers should affix the label on the appliance.

**Question 7:** If we need to test the products in Mauritius, when can you start the testing and how long will it take?

**Reply:** Testing facilities are already available at the MSB for refrigerators and ovens. Testing facilities for dishwashers are not complete yet. The length of testing will depend on the appliance. The testing process may be between 1 to 2 weeks.

**Question 8:** Do the regulations cover freezers as well?

**Reply:** Yes. The regulations apply to refrigerating appliances with storage volumes of 10 to 1500 L only.

**Question 9:** Do the regulations also cover display coolers?

**Reply:** Yes

**Additional information:** confirmation, or otherwise, whether display coolers are covered under the MS 201 is being sought from the MSB.

**Question 10:** Do the regulations apply to commercial refrigerators?

**Reply:** Dealers should refer to standards or to the 2nd schedule of the Regulation. The standard MS 201 covers household refrigerating appliances with storage volumes of 10 to 1500 L.

**Question 11:** Is domestic cooking oven included?

**Reply:** The regulations apply to domestic oven and the standard is MS 204. The ovens which are excluded are spelt out in the second schedule of the regulation. Appliances with three burners and an electric oven are covered under the regulations.

**Question 12:** Could you elaborate on the provisions on the law regarding incorrect labels or incorrect contents of labels and when the offence is committed by the importer rather than the reseller? (note: the question is from a reseller)

**Reply:** There are four possibilities:

(i) if the label is not affixed, the offence is committed by the one selling the product;
(ii) if the label is not to the format (dimension, colour and content) provided in the standards, the one selling the product has committed an offence;

(iii) If the contents of the label are not correct (say these have been falsified), the one selling the product has committed an offence; and

(iv) in the last two cases, if a reseller can prove that the label has been obtained in good faith from the importer, then the reseller has a defence. Then the offence is deemed to have been committed by the importer.

**Question 13:** As resellers, we need to have both labels affixed to the appliance and evidence, to prove that the labels conform to the test certificate, to present at the time of enforcement. Since all documents have been uploaded on the EEIMS, is it necessary to have the letter from the importer/MSB to show that the appliance conforms to the energy levels?

**Reply:** You will only need to keep a copy of the registration certificate issued by the EEMO to the importer for that appliance.

**Additional information:** the EEMO will streamline the process to reduce paper works. This will require amendments to the regulations.

**Question 14:** What about online payment?

**Reply:** No payment is made to the EEMO. The MSB is working on a project for online payment. This facility may be provided in the near future.

**Question 15:** There are so many appliances that we import. It will not be practical to print and distribute copies of the certificate of registration of the appliances to all the resellers. If the resellers have any issue, they may contact the importers – they do not need to keep a copy of the certificate of registration.

**Reply:** The process has already been streamlined. As per the regulations, importers have to provide their resellers with a copy of the test reports. They will now simply have to keep a copy of the certificate of registration issued by the EEMO to importers. EEMO will consider to further streamline the process and reduce paper works.

**Additional information:** In case the label provided by the importer to the reseller:

(i) is not according to the standards;

(ii) does not contain the correct data/information,

the reseller will need to produce evidence in Court to prove that he obtained the label from the importer.

**Question 16:** If there is more than one importer of a specific appliance and there is an issue on a label at a reseller, which one of the importer will be liable?

**Reply:** It will be the importer who has distributed the appliance to the reseller.
Question 17: It is not mentioned in the regulations that we need to provide a copy of the certificate of accreditation of the testing laboratory. Instead of us requesting for further documents from the manufacturer, can the MSB verify whether the laboratory is an accredited one?

Reply: The MSB will try to do it. If the MSB cannot ascertain that the laboratory is an accredited one, the dealer will be requested to produce a copy of the certificate of registration.

Question 18: What will happen if a reseller still has products in stock after March 31, 2018?

Reply: If the products are not labelled, he will not be allowed to sell these as from April 01, 2018.

Question 19: Basically, we have up to April 01, 2018 to sell the product.

Reply: You have up to March 31, 2018 to sell the product without the need to affix a label to it. You may consider registering the product with the EEMO prior to that date and you will thus not be bound to sell the product by March 31, 2018.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Notwithstanding the above replies and additional information and the presentations made, the provisions of the Energy Efficiency Act 2011 and Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Regulated Machinery) Regulations 2017 will prevail at all times.