The French repair scoring system

21 September 2019
HOP’s goal: make products more durable and repairable

- Information and awareness, mobilizing citizens
- Lobbying the French institutions

**Du jetable au durable**
En finir avec l'obsolescence programmée

**Collants:**
cas d’obsolescence programmée?
Rapport d'enquête sur les enjeux et solutions en matière de collants
Background: durability policies in France

- **2014**: the law on consumption made it compulsory to give information on the availability of spare parts and improved legal guarantees,
- **2015**: the energy transition law defined and banned planned obsolescence
- Voluntary initiatives: SEB’s 10 year repairable, iFixit’s scoring…
Emmanuel Macron’s commitment during the 2017 presidential campaign

5 months of collaborative workshops with over 200 stakeholders

The result: a roadmap published on 23 April 2018 with 50 announced measures for a more circular economy.

Measure n°10: repairability scoring system

«From 1 January 2020, a simple information on repairability will be imperatively displayed on electrical and electronic products. This information, elaborated by ADEME (French environment agency) through a stakeholder consultation, will be presented as a repairability scoring system modeled on the Energy Label. France will support this policy at the European level to make repairability information a harmonised obligation within the EU. »
Repair index: two objectives

• To promote better information for consumers so they can choose the most repairable product.

• To encourage manufacturers to compete for a better grade and improve the repairability of their products.
Repair index: Five criteria for a grade out of 10

- **Criteria 1: Information**
  - No points if there is no info
  - 1 to 3 points according to the length if the info is available for independent repairers
  - More points if the info is available for consumers (self-repair)

- **Criteria 2: Ease of disassembly**
  - Availability of tools for different stakeholders
  - Ease of disassembly (PrEN54454)

- **Criteria 3: Spare parts availability**
  - Grades depend on availability to different stakeholders (manufacturer or authorized repairers / independent / consumers), length of availability and delivery time

- **Criteria 4: Price of spare parts**
  - Price of the most expensive spare part/public price of the new product
  - Still to be precised

- **Criteria 5: Category-specific criteria**
  - Ex: for smartphones, regarding software
Repair index : where are we?

- **5 working groups** have been launched by the Environment Ministry and ADEME to apply the generic index to different product categories and to come up with the product-specific 5th criteria:
  - Washing machines
  - Smartphones
  - Laptops
  - TVs
  - Lawnmowers

- The framework is almost ready, then a **testing phase** will begin to give grades to products and improve the mechanism.
- Simultaneously, **consumers’ reactions** and understanding of different types of labelling are being tested via experiments.
- **Uncertainty on the date** of the index coming into force: 2021 or 2022?
HOP’s view on the repair index

• **A good first step** towards longer-lasting products, if done in an ambitious way:
  • The **price of spare parts** is an essential criteria
  • Taking into account **software and update** issues is critical.
  • Making sure points are not given too easily
• Making it mandatory for all economic players, including online marketplaces, to ensure a **level-playing field**.
• **Transparency** is key: the detail of the information declared by the manufacturer to obtain a grade must be accessible to consumers (amendment).
• Appropriate controls and **sanctions** must be planned for in case of false declarations (pre-contractual information)
• A EU scoring system **must** take price into account.

-> Next step should be a **mandatory durability label**
(wished for by 92 % of Europeans)
Other policies to foster repair and durability (HOP’s white paper)

- **Funding repair** via EPR schemes
- Make it mandatory for manufacturers to provide **information** to independent repairers
- Improve **accessibility of spare parts**
- Ban strategies that aim to make products **impossible to repair**
- Create a **usage counter** on relevant products (washing machines, TV...)
- **Teaching repair** in middle-schools
- Improving **legal guarantees** so they contribute to longer-lasting products
- Improve **advertising**
- Separate security and comfort **software updates**.
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