



Brussels, 6 April 2020

Companies in virtually every sector of the economy are currently confronted with extremely serious and unique conditions due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The members of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® and the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), are no exception.

In this extraordinary environment, characterised by immediate and urgent challenges, the pressure from upcoming regulatory obligations weighs heavily on companies, personnel and logistics.

Against this background, CTA and ITI are concerned about the deadline for compliance with new requirements for external power supplies (“EPS”). Regulation (EU) 2019/1782 introduces new and more stringent performance thresholds in terms of EPS energy efficiency. CTA and ITI member companies rely heavily on well-functioning supply chains and a working labour force in various regions for the provision and production of their products. CTA and ITI members are encountering significant difficulties related to the COVID-19 outbreak, and this includes the ability to meet the current compliance timeline for the EU’s EPS Regulation.

Importantly, a strict application of the 1 April deadline could both result in a shortage of supply and an increased waste of current external power supplies, with a negative environmental impact as a consequence. This would run against one of the main objectives of the EPS Regulation itself.

A number of new EU regulatory requirements imposed on companies are scheduled to take effect in the coming days and weeks. In this framework, recent EU institutions’ decisions to set in motion emergency procedures to delay the entry into force of specific legislation, for example in the medical devices field, or to support specific sectors by amending relevant legislation, such as for airline slots, are testament to the breadth and severity of the situation. This also shows that the EU institutions can act rapidly and resolutely in the current circumstances.

In light of the extraordinary circumstances we currently face, CTA and ITI call for a limited six-month suspension of the deadline for implementing the requirements of the EPS Regulation. This very limited extension will give the industry a chance to adapt to the special circumstances of the COVID-19 crisis, and it would not hamper the achievement of the EU’s long term energy efficiency objectives which we support. In times when all industry is suffering from the unprecedented pandemic crisis, we urge the European Commission to take the initiative to promote such proportionate, reasonable and cost-free measures, thereby offering some badly needed relief to businesses.