

Code of Conduct – Doors on Refrigeration Equipment

Background

No formal studies on the benefits of placing doors on fridges (DOFs) in the supermarket retail sector have been produced in the UK, however a 2007 Dutch report by the Energy Research Centre¹ (ECN) found that fitting DOFs can achieve energy savings of 40-55% and a 2008 French study² found that using DOFs offered sales area energy savings of 38-50%. The French study modelled direct annual financial savings, due to placing DOFs, for a range of retailer sizes as follows:

Size of Supermarket (m ²)	Annual Saving by Placing Doors on Fridges	
	kWh	€
18,000	4,500,000	300,000
5,500	800,000	60,000
2,500	700,000	50,000

(Adapted from PERIFEM & ADEME, 2008)

Following this study, a voluntary Code of Conduct was signed in 2012 by the largest French retailers³, in partnership with the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL) and the French Retailers' Association (FCD). The agreement stated that DOFs should be installed in all new and refurbished stores, a move that should deliver a direct total energy saving of 11 TWh by 2020, by which time 75% of their combined estate should have DOFs.

The Environmental Investigation Agency compiles annual reports⁴ on refrigeration in the EU's supermarket retail sector. Retailers who introduce DOFs all realise significant energy savings, for instance El Corte Inglés (Spain) are saving 5-20% total store energy by placing DOFs; likewise, Ahold (Netherlands) estimate that putting DOFs saves 20-25% annually on cabinet energy costs. In the UK, the Co-op and Tesco are both leading the field by rolling out DOFs in many stores. Thanks to this simple measure, the Co-op⁵ is saving £50m a year in energy bills from 100 stores and Tesco⁶ is realising 50% savings on energy bills in its convenience stores. Asda⁷ is also saving 8% on its energy bills by implementing DOFs.

¹ Ligthart, F., 2007, *Closed supermarket refrigerator and freezer cabinets: A feasibility study*, Energy Research Centre, available: <http://www.ecn.nl/docs/library/report/2007/e07098.pdf>.

² PERIFEM and ADEME, 2008, *Etude "Site Commercial A Haute Efficacite Energetique"*.

³ Signatories include Auchan, Carrefour, Casino, Cora, Franca and Monoprix (Intermarket are expected soon).

⁴ See Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), 2012, *Chilling Facts IV*.

⁵ Guardian, 2012, available: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/25/co-op-supermarkets-extend-fridge-door-scheme>.

⁶ Global Convenience Store Focus, 2011, available: http://www.globalcstorefocus.com/cgi-bin/newsletter.pl?edition=201110&this_page=14.

⁷ Telegraph, 2008, available: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/3259395/Asda-comes-in-from-the-cold-with-fridge-doors-to-save-energy.html>.

On 5th June 2013, the Rt. Hon Gregory Barker MP, Minister for Energy and Climate Change, unveiled plans for a Task Force⁸ which will focus on improving energy efficiency in the UK's supermarket refrigeration estate. The Task Force will be chaired by David Purdy, Director of the Energy Efficiency Deployment Office, and will include representatives from the retail sector, relevant supply chain, finance companies and government. Announced at the Consumer Goods Forum '3rd Refrigeration Summit', this progress highlights the sector's commitment to taking serious action to improve refrigeration energy efficiency, something that a Code of Conduct on DOFs would strongly support.

Voluntary Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct will come into effect once all UK grocers with a market share above 1%⁹ have signed this Code.

Each retailer will voluntarily commit to ensuring that within one year of this Code of Conduct coming into effect, all newly installed and refurbished point-of-sale refrigeration equipment is fixed with doors. Parties to this agreement recognise the importance of improving the energy efficiency of refrigeration operations in order to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions. Installing doors on point-of-sale refrigeration equipment will make a sizeable impact on retailers' carbon footprint, whilst increasing overall energy efficiency in the sector.

⁸ See CGF Press Release, available: http://www.theconsumergoodsforum.com/PDF/PressReleases/2013-06-05-Refrigeration_Summit_Closing.pdf.

⁹ This includes: Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Co-op, M&S, Waitrose, Iceland, Aldi and Lidl.