

EEPLIANT4 Concerted Action (Project number: 101143050)

Call for Tenders for Laboratory Testing Services for Work Package 2 refrigerating appliances

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1 BACKGROUND

The **EEPLIANT4 Concerted Action** (www.eepliant.eu), coordinated by PROSAFE, aims to support EU Member States in monitoring and enforcing Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations. The activities are co-funded by the European Union's LIFE programme for the environment and climate under grant agreement No.101143050.

2 PURPOSE OF THE TENDER

The objective of this Call is to identify qualified, independent, and EU-based test laboratories for the performance of product compliance tests according to applicable harmonised EU standards under the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling legal frameworks for the following product category:

Product Category in Scope under Work Package (WP) 2 refrigerating appliances:

- › Household refrigerating appliances
 - Refrigerators
 - Freezers
 - Wine coolers
 - Minibars
 - Professional chest freezers
- › Refrigerating appliances with direct sales function
 - Beverage coolers
 - Refrigerated vending machines
 - Ice cream freezers
 - Gelato scooping cabinets
 - Supermarket refrigerator/freezer/combined cabinets (horizontal/vertical)
 - Roll-in cabinets

Relevant Legislation:

- › Regulation (EU) 2019/2019 laying down ecodesign requirements for refrigerating appliances
- › Regulation (EU) 2019/2016 with regard to energy labelling of refrigerating appliances
- › Regulation (EU) 2019/2024 laying down ecodesign requirements for refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function
- › Regulation (EU) 2019/2018 with regard to energy labelling of refrigerating appliances with a direct sales function
- › Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 setting a framework for energy labelling

Relevant (Harmonised) Standards, procedures and methodologies:

The verification test for market surveillance authorities should be performed according to the harmonised standards or transitional method applicable at the date that the product was placed on the market. Several new standards related to refrigerating appliances are recently harmonised and replaced former standards. The market surveillance authorities may select models that are placed on the market before the recent harmonisation, meaning that these products need to be tested according to the former harmonised standard.

PROSAFE will inform the laboratory which version of the standard applies to each product to be tested.

Household refrigerating appliances:

CATEGORY	STANDARD	HARMONISED	REMARKS
Household Refrigerating Appliances	EN 62552:2013	Yes - By Commission communication (2014/C 22/03)	Most recent standards: EN 62552:2020 / A11:2024 to be included when harmonised.
	EN 60704-2-14/A2 (Noise)	No	-

Refrigerating appliances with direct sales function:

CATEGORY	STANDARD	HARMONISED	REMARKS
Commercial Beverage Coolers	EN ISO 22044:2022	No	-
Refrigerated Vending Machines	EN-IEC 63252:2020	No	-
Ice Cream Freezers	prEN ISO 22043:2020	No	-
Gelato Scooping Cabinets	EN 16838:2024	Yes - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2025/533 of 25 March 2025	-
	EN 16838:2019	-	Products placed on the market before 25 March to be tested by EN ISO EN 16838:2019
Refrigerated Display Cabinets Supermarket Refrigerator/Freezer/Combi ned Cabinets (Horizontal/Vertical)*	EN-ISO 23953-2:2024	Yes - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2024/2397 of 11 September 2024	Products placed on the market before 11 September 2024 to be tested by EN ISO 23953-2:2015
	EN ISO 23953-2:2015	-	

**The models include plug and play refrigerating appliances and do not include supermarket cabinets to be installed and put into service in the supermarket or laboratory.*

Laboratories accredited for only one of the two categories are invited to submit a tender, clearly indicating the product category for which they seek to perform testing.

Unless otherwise specified, the models must be tested on all energy efficiency and noise parameters, including, where applicable:

- All storage temperatures and climate class(es)
- Net volume and net compartment(s) volume
- Gross volume and gross compartment(s) volume
- TDA, and compartment TDA
- E_{daily}
- AE

- Noise (Sound power level)

The laboratory shall communicate to the MSA which additional consumables (such as trays or grids) would be needed for the testing of the product once opened and in case the consumables provided by the manufacturer are considered not sufficient.

3 DESCRIPTION OF REQUESTED SERVICES

The selected laboratory will be responsible for delivering a complete and transparent testing service in accordance with the following requirements. The working language is English.

a) Pre-testing Online Meetings

Participate in one or more pre-testing meetings with the project team to discuss technical and logistical arrangements.

b) Project Coordination

Nominate a single point of contact with project management authority. Collaborate actively with the EEPLIANT4 coordination team throughout the planning, testing, and reporting process until contract closure.

Work collaboratively with the EEPLIANT4 team across two separate testing cycles, each involving its own detailed planning phase. Any changes in staffing or test lead between cycles must be communicated in advance and agreed with the project coordination team.

c) Product Delivery and Receipt

Products will be delivered free of charge, in new, original packaging, either singly or in batches. Laboratories must:

- › Confirm product receipt
- › Photograph the outer package at the moment of receiving the sample
- › Report immediately on any damage of the packaging and product or other circumstances that could influence the test results
- › Ensure accurate intake and product handling

d) Product Documentation and Identification

Photograph each product/test unit capturing all key features and the EU energy label before testing.

Maintain a systematic index of images with clear titles that are searchable by brand and model number, EEPLIANT4 unique sample number and sample identification number of the laboratory.

Ensure each image file is clearly labelled.

Include photographs and corresponding label records in the final test reporting package.

e) Collaboration and Expert Input

Participate in on-demand technical discussions with EEPLIANT4 participants and address enquiries throughout the contract period regarding:

- › Test set-up and conditions
- › Testing difficulties/challenges
- › Interpretation and explanation of results obtained
- › Feedback on test methods and/or regulations
- › Recommendations for test method development/improvement

These interactions may be conducted in person (see below), via email, or virtual meetings.

f) Testing Services

Conduct laboratory testing of each product sample provided by the project to verify compliance with the specific requirements relevant to the product type, in accordance with the agreed final test programme and based on the relevant (harmonised) test standards, (transitional) test methods and applicable regulatory requirements.

All tests must be conducted independently, impartially, and with traceable calibration of the used testing equipment.

Subcontracting of any part of the test programme is prohibited, except in exceptional cases where prior approval is granted by PROSAFE. Any anticipated need for subcontracting must be clearly noted in the technical offer.

If testing issues or uncertainties arise that require resolution to complete the prescribed test programme, the selected test laboratory must inform PROSAFE and may only contact the economic operator after obtaining prior authorisation from the responsible MSA.

▪ Product Quantities and Testing Volume:

Estimated total number of test units: **36 for initial testing, plus triple testing¹ of up to 8 models (= 24 units).**

Indicative breakdown per product type:

Product type	Estimated share of tested models within total WP
Household refrigerating appliances	Approx. 65%
Refrigerating appliances with direct sales function	Approx. 35%

Exact quantities will be defined once the sampling exercise has started.

▪ Testing Period:

Testing is expected to commence in November 2025, with some flexibility to adjust the start date based on the successful tenderer's schedule and internal planning needs.

Product testing will be conducted in two separate time-bound test cycles. Each cycle may have its own product mix or number of test units, deadlines and reporting milestones. The selected laboratory must ensure appropriate allocation of resources and continuity of quality across both cycles, and must be capable of adjusting their planning, staffing, and capacity accordingly.

Cycle	Estimated start
Cycle 1:	November 2025
- Approx. 12 household refrigerating appliances - Approx. 6 refrigerating appliances with direct sales function	
Cycle 2:	March 2027
- Approx. 12 household refrigerating appliances - Approx. 6 refrigerating appliances with direct sales function	

The precise volume and schedule will be confirmed in coordination with the selected test laboratory and may depend on product availability, seasonal factors, or internal project needs.

Laboratories are requested to clearly indicate in their offer:

- Start to end dates, considering the above anticipated timeframe
- Any blackout/unavailability periods or capacity limitations
- Operational lead times for mobilisation and preparation.

¹ Triple testing is a specific procedure for market surveillance authorities in the verification procedures. If the determined values do not meet the declared values, including the accepted tolerances in the Regulations, three additional units of the model are to be tested; the average measurement value stemming from the three additional units must be used to verify the declared information, taking into account the verification tolerances. The triple test can be limited to the parameters that are suspected to be non-compliant from the first test.

g) Reporting Test Results

Produce and provide a detailed individual test report per tested sample, in accordance with the highest appropriate standards of quality, integrity, accuracy, and based on the agreed reporting format/template. Reports must:

- › Present all measured values for each property/parameter
- › Include the measurement uncertainty of measurement, where applicable
- › Contain relevant photos (product, test setup, EU Energy Label)
- › Include observations of any possible sign of circumvention
- › Follow the agreed format and deadlines.

The laboratory must remain flexible to adapt the reporting format (template and content) as reasonably required to satisfy the *consensus requirements of the participating MSAs*. Test reports will be subject to quality control review by the project team before final acceptance and dissemination to MSAs.

The final decision on compliance lies with the responsible MSA.

h) Secure Storage

Store each product sample securely from receipt until return or disposal is authorised in writing by the PROSAFE team. Ensure:

- › Dry, temperature-controlled storage
- › Access restricted to authorised personnel only
- › Tamper-proof handling before and after testing

The cost of secure storage may extend up to 12 months after the end of the contract (as detailed under 'Post-Testing Sample Treatment and Disposal') must be included in the price of testing per unit.

i) Host a physical or virtual meeting for EEPLANT4 representatives to:

- › Discuss test results and test report findings
- › Provide feedback on testing process and regulatory observations
- › Include a guided walkthrough of the test setup and sample (if physical)

j) Witnessing of testing

Allow MSAs, PROSAFE or the European Commission to witness testing physically or virtually, in coordination with the laboratory.

Manufacturers may be allowed to witness testing at their own cost, only if approved by the responsible MSA.

Physical witnessing is limited to a few pre-agreed persons and must follow health and safety rules.

Photographs are only allowed if approved by the Test Body. PROSAFE may inspect facilities for storage or handling of test items and results.

k) Maintain an Overview of Testing Activity and Progress

Prepare and submit weekly or bi-weekly (TBD) a summary Excel file tracker on the testing progress, indicating:

- › Product Identification Details as provided
- › Number of samples tested
- › Estimated and actual start and end test dates
- › Test results and key observations, issues, uncertainties per sample

The exact format and detailed structure of this Excel tracker will be formally agreed with PROSAFE ahead of use.

l) Testing Follow-up and Handover

Respond to enquiries from the participating authorities about the outcome of the tests and the observations made by economic operators.

Provide a final handover summary report, using the template provided by PROSAFE.

m) Post-Testing Sample Treatment and Disposal

Products remain the property of PROSAFE or the delivering MSA. At project end, products will either be:

- › Returned to the responsible MSA; or
- › Approved for disposal. Disposal must be socially responsible (e.g., for compliant products, donation to a charity, or otherwise scrapping/recycling) and fully documented (method, recipient, confirmation). or
- › Subject to storage extended up to 12 months after the end of the contract, until collection by PROSAFE/MSA, return, or written authorisation for disposal.

4 TERM OF SERVICE

The service duration is expected to be **November 2025 to end of January 2029**. Final confirmation of the duration will be agreed with the selected laboratory at contract stage.

5 EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Tenderers shall complete and sign a **Declaration on Honour** attesting that they are not in any of the situations giving rise to exclusion from the procedure. The exclusion criteria are listed in the model Declaration on Honour provided with the Call for Tenders in Annex 1.

In addition, tenderers shall complete and sign a **Declaration on Absence of Conflict of Interest**, confirming that they have no personal, financial, or professional interests that could improperly influence their participation in this procedure or the execution of the contract. The template is provided in Annex 3.

Tenderers shall use these models in their entirety.

6 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The selection of the laboratory will be conducted according to the principle of best value for money, considering both the quality of the technical offer and the price. The evaluation will be performed by a designated panel from PROSAFE and the members of the EEPLIANT4 WP team, in line with EU public procurement principles of transparency, equal treatment, non-discrimination, and proportionality.

6.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (Pass/Fail)

Tenders will first be checked against the following eligibility requirements. Failure to meet any of the below will result in disqualification from further evaluation:

Eligibility Criterion	Means of Verification
1. The laboratory is based in an EU Member State or EEA country	Tender Submission Form
2. The laboratory is accredited to: › EN ISO/IEC 17025 › EN 62552:2013 › EN 60704-2-14/A2 › EN ISO 22044:2022 › EN-IEC 63252:2020 › prEN ISO 22043:2020	Proof of accreditation, or evidence of equivalent quality assurance systems. Laboratories accredited only to standards related to household refrigerating appliances or only to standards related to refrigerating appliances with direct sales

› EN 16838:2024 and EN 16838:2019 -

› EN-ISO 23953-2:2024 and EN ISO 23953-2:2015

function are invited to apply and clarify their accreditation.

3. The tenderer acknowledges their readiness to incorporate modifications to the test report template as proposed by the project team

Tender Submission Form:
Statement on readiness to accommodate MSAs' requests for adaptation

4. The tenderer accepts PROSAFE's General Conditions for Tenders (see Annex 2).

Tender Submission Form: Explicit Statement

5. The tenderer accepts that CINEA (EEPLIANT4 Contracting Authority), the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, and OLAF (European Anti-Fraud Office) have the right to carry out checks, reviews and audits on contractors and subcontractors during or after the implementation of the EEPLIANT4 Concerted Action.

Tender Submission Form: Explicit Statement

6. The proposal is submitted in full, in English, by the set deadline

Tender Submission Form

(!) Tenderers who do not meet all above-listed criteria will be rejected.

6.2 SELECTION CRITERIA (Technical and Financial Offer)

1. Technical Offer:

Selection Criterion	Max Points	Means of Verification - Technical Offer (Tender Submission Form)
a) Experience with relevant product testing and Ecodesign/Energy Labelling legislation in the past 5 years	25 pts	› List of past testing assignments for commercial or other clients during the last 5 years for products covered by the scope of this Call, including used test standards/methods › Brief description of known issues with testing, including testing challenges, complexities or difficulties related to the products covered by this Call.
b) Experience with Ecodesign/Energy Labelling testing for EU/EEA MSA actions (national/regional or EU-funded)	20 pts	› A list of projects, name of MSAs involved, products in scope, implementation period, AND lessons learned
c) Qualifications and expertise of proposed team	15 pts	› CVs of designated technical staff, detailing their expertise in EU regulations and harmonized standards for testing the products within the scope of this Call for Tenders. The CVs should also indicate any participation in previous testing campaigns for EU/EEA MSAs, along with proficiency in English.
d) Technical Capacity	25 pts	› Suggested timeline for the completion of the indicative test programme per testing cycle (start-to-end). › The maximum number of tests that can be conducted simultaneously.



		- Estimated number of products that can be tested per week. - Identification of any blackout/unavailability periods. - How the laboratory will guarantee the availability and continuity of services, ensure timely delivery, and maintain responsiveness throughout both cycles. - Whether there is a requirement to subcontract any part of the test programme.
e) Quality of test report	15 pts	- An actual anonymised test report example from a previous test for a product within the scope of this Call that was tested by your lab during the last 5 years. - A proposed test report template model, tailored to fit the specifications of this project and MSA needs.
TOTAL	100 pts	

Tenderers are required to address each selection criterion and its corresponding requirements individually, in the Tender Submission Form. Failure to respond to any listed point will affect the scoring negatively.

2. Financial Offer:

Tenderers are requested to quote prices (with zero VAT) in EUR according to the price structure set out in the Tender Submission Form, including all charges/expenses for the requested testing services.

Terms of offer must be valid for acceptance (or negotiation) for at least 6 months from submission.

Invoicing will be discussed and agreed before the placement of the contract.

The final test programme will be determined during the contracting phase, in cooperation with the selected laboratory.

Under this Call for Tenders and Tender specifications, 'testing services' means the following, without prejudice to the description of the Service Request in Section 3 above – so that costs for all support functions are distributed across the products tested:

- Setup of testing and related preparatory work, including receipt, indexing, and taking pictures of the products, as outlined in Section 3 above.
- Comprehensive testing according to the applicable requirements of the relevant (harmonised) standards/(transitional) test methods, and any additional/ancillary work required to ensure the successful completion of the agreed test programme;
- Production of individual test reports for each model tested, including test results, measured values, any relevant observations (including the behaviour of the product during testing and/or any signs of potential circumvention), photos of the mounted test unit and the test setup;
- Ad-hoc/on-demand participation in project/WP-related meetings;
- Maintenance of a summary Excel file tracker on the testing progress, as described in Section 3 above.
- Preparation of an end of contract report;
- Responding to enquiries from the project team and the participating authorities about the progress and outcome of the testing, or other part of the service as indicated in this Call, throughout the term of the contract;
- The hosting of a 1-day physical meeting to discuss the test results and observed issues;

- Storage of tested products during the contract period and up to 12 months post-contract, and their disposal, as applicable.

The quotation should specify any potential discounts available, whether based on the quantity of tested samples or offered as a commercial courtesy.

Note 1: The prices in EUR quoted for comprehensive testing will be taken into account during the selection process. If it is decided to carry out a more limited test programme, the final cost of testing will be adjusted accordingly.

Note 2: PROSAFE reserves the right to negotiate with one or more shortlisted tenderers before taking a decision on the placing of a contract. The offer shall remain valid until changes are agreed in writing.

7 TENDER DOCUMENTATION

To be eligible, tenders submitted via the Tender Submission Form must contain all requested information and supporting documentation in the

- A signed Declaration on Honour (Annex 1) confirming that the tenderer is not in any exclusion situation.
- A signed Declaration on Absence of Conflict of Interest (Annex 3).
- A completed Tender Submission Form, including the technical and financial offers, and addressing all eligibility criteria.
- Any supporting documentation required under the eligibility and selection criteria.

8 EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process will proceed as follows:

1. **Exclusion and Eligibility Criteria Screening (Pass/Fail).** Non-compliant tenders are rejected.
2. **Technical Scoring (100 points max)** based on the quality and detail of the submitted proposal and supporting documentation.

Tenderers may be invited to provide additional information to clarify the already presented services or where a clerical error occurred provided that the principles of transparency and equal and fair competition are respected.

3. **Ranking.** Tenders complying with the exclusion and qualifying criteria as defined above will be evaluated based on the following weighting: Technical Scoring: 70 %; Financial Offer: 30 %:

$$\text{Final evaluation score} = (\text{Technical offer score}) * 70\% + \left(\frac{\text{Lowest offer}}{\text{Financial offer}} \right) * 30\%$$

4. If necessary, the project team may conduct virtual interviews with up to three shortlisted test laboratories before awarding the contract to gain deeper insight into key aspects and further evaluate the quality of the proposal.
5. An in-person visit to the highest scoring laboratory premises might also be organised to confirm the information provided before awarding the contract.
6. **Selection:** The contract will be awarded to the tenderer with the **highest combined total score from the evaluation of the technical and financial offer and, if applicable, the pre-award interview**, demonstrating best value for money.
7. Tenderers are informed on the results of the evaluation. Tenderers will have 5 working days to appeal the decision from the day after the information email was sent. PROSAFE will analyse the appeal and provide a final decision within a week from the moment the appeal was launched.

PROSAFE reserves the right to engage or not engage in any or all of the eligible activities listed above without incurring any obligation to inform the affected tenderers of the grounds. PROSAFE is not bound to place a contract or purchase consultancy services for any or all of the activities listed above.

9 SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS

The deadline for submission of questions is **16 September 2025**.

Questions may be sent via email to lidia@prosafe.org and ioana@prosafe.org. The responses that PROSAFE will provide to all questions received by the set deadline will be published here: www.eepliant.eu → [Call for tenders webpage](#).

Only questions submitted in this way will be answered, in fairness to all tenderers.

In respect of equal treatment and confidentiality, the Q&A will be anonymised, ensuring no confidential or commercially sensitive information is disclosed.

10 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of offers is **22 September 2025, 17:00 CEST**.

Tenders must be submitted via this Tender Submission Form: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/b1e0447a-6798-2400-3d8a-c9ce5dca0aeb>.

If signed in handwriting, hardcopies of the signed Declaration on Honour (Annex 1) and signed Declaration on Absence of Conflict of Interest (Annex 3) must also be sent to: PROSAFE Office, Avenue des Arts 41, 1040 Brussels, Belgium, at latest by 22 September 2025. If signed electronically, it must be with a valid signature that can be recognised by <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/DSS/webapp-demo/validation>

Tenders received after this deadline will be automatically rejected.

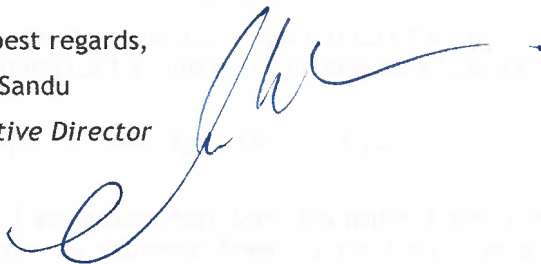
11 DATA PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Tenderers must comply with all applicable EU and national data protection rules, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Any personal data (e.g. names, addresses, emails, quotations) submitted in connection with this Call will be processed by PROSAFE, as data controller, solely for the purposes of this procurement procedure.

With best regards,

Ioana Sandu

Executive Director



LIST OF ANNEXES:

ANNEX 1	Declaration on Honour
ANNEX 2	PROSAFE General Conditions for Tenders
ANNEX 3	Declaration on the absence of conflict of interest

DISCLAIMER

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