

SPAIN

Asociación Española de Normalización (UNE)

Taking energy efficiency a step further with standards

Overview

Threatened by climate change, Spain has set to transform its energy systems by focusing on policies that protect both the climate and the environment. Among the initiatives taken to meet these targets, the Spanish national standards body, UNE, has developed two standards on energy procurement and efficient driving management.

Buying energy is a long and convoluted process and the energy services on offer are increasingly complex. To simplify the purchasing process, the market must be more structured, clearer and more reliable, making it easier to compare different service providers. This implies monitoring, identifying and verifying energy saving actions, and these activities must be conducted with diligence and rigour for the end result to be reliable.

Promoted by the sector itself, UNE 216701:2018, *Classification of energy services providers*, contributes to the deployment of energy services in Spain by improving transparency and reliability in their procurement. The standard defines a classification of energy service providers (ESP) that allows for their differentiation and the choice of the most appropriate type for the customer's needs.

Energy services and the selection of an ESP are fundamental to achieving Europe's energy-saving objectives. The European Directive 2012/27/EU establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the EU in order to ensure the achievement of the Union's energy efficiency target. It supports the proper functioning of the energy services market and EU countries are required to set up mechanisms ensuring an ESP is competent to perform its activity. In Spain, the Directive is partially transposed into Royal Decree 56/2016, which also includes other important measures to boost the energy efficiency of the country's industry and services.

Encouraging more fuel-efficient driving is another area recognized as offering significant energy savings. Efficient driving has a significant influence on fuel consumption, which confirms efficient driving as a valid and economical option for reducing consumption and therefore emissions of harmful greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Besides, it also indirectly improves the security and comfort of the passengers and driver.

EA 0050:2015, *Efficient driving management system for professional fleets*, provides solutions for the monitoring and interconnectivity of information systems focused on improving efficiency and security in road transport. This technical specification describes requirements that must be adopted to define, implement, maintain and improve an efficient driving management system in companies operating a fleet of industrial vehicles. Included under this designation are road transport companies within both the logistics and passenger transport sectors, as well as environmental companies.

EA 0050 gives guidance on the parameters and metrics required for efficient driving and the preferred value ranges for those parameters, classified according to their intended application. It also specifies the requirements for measurement systems and techniques for supporting driving effectiveness, which can be certified in accordance with this specification. Lastly, it gives the fundamentals of a monitoring system that serves as the basis for assessing a driver's competence and the company's management practices.

Outcomes and benefits

The range of activities an energy service provider is able to provide has naturally led to the emergence of ESPs that are specialized in one or more of these services. On the one hand, this specialization makes it possible for an entity to hone its skills in terms of efficiency; on the other, it can constitute a barrier for organizations that are considering hiring an ESP to optimize their energy consumption since the differences between ESPs are not always easy to identify.

The aim of publishing UNE 216701 was to clear away such uncertainties by establishing a typology of ESPs based on the types of activities they carry out. In addition, the standard includes minimum requirements for technical capacity and experience that guarantee a certain level of quality and work from the ESP which, so far, in the absence of a consensus document, could only be assumed.

Similarly, EA 0050 was developed to provide a uniform method for promoting more efficient driving techniques, which have received much attention in recent years for their environmental benefits. The technical specification has been helping companies with industrial vehicle fleets put in place systems to monitor and analyse driving behaviour, train up staff, especially drivers, better manage fuel and set up incentive programmes, among many other things. Published in 2015, the specification hasn't made its way into legislation yet, but it contributes to several environmental policies, both at national and European level.

Partners involved

UNE 216701

Born out of the sector itself, UNE 216701:2018 was developed with the consensus of AMI (Association of Comprehensive Maintenance and Energy Services Companies), ADHAC (Association of Heat and Cold Networks Companies), ATECYR (Spanish Technical Association of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) and A3E (Association of Energy Efficiency Companies), together with the Association of Spanish Agencies for Energy Management (EnerAgen).

EA 0050

In 2014, ADN Mobile Solutions, a technology company working to improve efficiency and security in road transport, identified the need for a document that would provide standardized requirements for an efficient driving management system. The idea garnered support from other transport-related organizations, such as the Spanish Association of Automobile and Truck Manufacturers (ANFAC) and the MAPFRE Road Safety and Experimentation Center. This sector collaboration led to the development of EA 0050:2015.

Timeline

EA 0050 for efficient driving management was published in June 2015 after 12 months in the making. That same year, work began on UNE 216701 for energy service providers, which led to a first classification as technical specification EA 0055. This was later replaced by a fully-fledged standard in 2018.