COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 327/2011 of 30 March 2011
(Final deliverable from ENER Lot 11)

This Regulation establishes ecodesign requirements for the placing on the market or putting into service of fans, including those integrated in other energy-related products as covered by Directive 2009/125/EC. A fan within the scope of this Regulation is designed for use with or equipped with an electrical motor having an electrical input power between 125 W and 500 kW (≥ 125 W and ≤ 500 kW) to drive the impeller at its optimum energy efficiency point. Specified minimum efficiency grades and labeling and documentation requirements shall apply from 1 January 2013.

The Commission is still tasked with producing a Guidance Document to compliance with the Regulation. Although the scope of the Regulation is essentially clear, there are one or two issues for manufacturers of some types of fan or impeller that need clarification. It is hoped that the Guidance Document will address these issues. The European Air Movement and Control Association is engaged in discussions with the European Commission both directly and through liaison with other EU industry Associations.

Manufacturers of Jet Thrust Fans are concerned that the Regulation contains no suitable method for evaluating the efficiency of a Jet Fan. Although the scope of the Regulation does not exclude Jet Fans, some people believe that they should be excluded for this reason. We are requesting some clear guidance from the Commission on how to proceed as of 1 January 2013. Meanwhile, EN ISO 13350 is being revised to include a practical method, based on thrust measurements, for determining the efficiency of a Jet Fan. It will be necessary to persuade the Commission to set specific efficiency target grades for Jet Fans and we have offered to assist with the establishment of Best Practice Benchmarks and target values.

CEN TC156 have established a new Working Group (WG17) to be responsible for European Fan Standards. The first task for WG17 is to draft a Harmonised EN Standard which can be referenced by manufacturers in support of their claims of compliance with Ecodesign Directive 2009/125/EC and Regulation 327/2011. This work has been Mandated by the European Commission (M500) and the document will identify the necessary rules for claiming Conformity and applying the CE-Mark. It will identify appropriate test methods, documentation and labelling requirements, etc.. We are well represented on this Working Group. European AMCA staff and three European AMCA member companies have provided experts for this working group via their Member States’ Standards Bodies.

European AMCA Regulation 327 Verification scheme: Meanwhile, European AMCA is seeking to provide an independent 327 Compliance Verification Scheme for those members who would like to take advantage of such a service. Approximately 50% of the European membership has been directly approached so far and the response is mixed. Most appear to be supportive, but non-committal. A task force of interested member representatives has been working through the detail and has drafted a suitable and practical programme.
Negotiations are currently underway with CETIAT in Lyon, France. It is proposed that they be accredited as an Independent AMCA Laboratory, able to undertake testing as required for the 327 Verification Scheme and AMCA CRP.