

Abstract

Ecodesign of products from an environmental law perspective

This thesis discusses ecodesign as an approach to design that aims to reduce the amount of negative environmental impacts of products throughout their life cycle. Over the past few years, ecodesign has increasingly come to the forefront of debates at European level, particularly in relation to the goals and principles of sustainability and circularity. The importance of this concept lies primarily in the possibility of preventing undesirable environmental impacts at the very beginning of a product's life, i.e. at the design stage.

The main goal of this thesis is to analyse the legislation in the field of ecodesign in order to assess whether the current legislation is able to achieve its objectives or whether a change is desirable. For this reason, the proposal for a new European regulation, which aims to create a new framework for ecodesign, is also discussed in detail. Due to the fact that, in the author's opinion, the concept of ecodesign is not given enough space in the Czech literature, a partial aim of this thesis is also to bring this issue closer to the readers, as one of the basic prerequisites for more sustainable decisions of the subjects is their awareness.

The first introductory part of the thesis defines the term and essence of ecodesign and related terms, while also focusing on its implementation to give the reader a better understanding of the concept. The second part of the thesis briefly discusses the concept of circular economy due to its connection with the current concept of ecodesign at the European level. The third part, which is the focus of this thesis, is devoted to a detailed analysis of the development of ecodesign in the various documents of European institutions and legislation from the early 1990s to the present day. This part also includes an assessment of the existing legislation and an analysis of the proposal for a new regulation put forward by the European Commission, which responds to the current global environmental situation and sets out further goals for European product policy.