

September 2006



The MEPS and Energy Labeling process in Australia and New Zealand

The mandatory energy rating labels that indicate the efficiency of appliances and equipment, have been used in Australia for nearly 20 years, with labeling initially appearing on domestic refrigerators in the mid 1980's. Since 1999 higher levels of energy efficiency across a range of appliances and equipment has been achieved with the use of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).

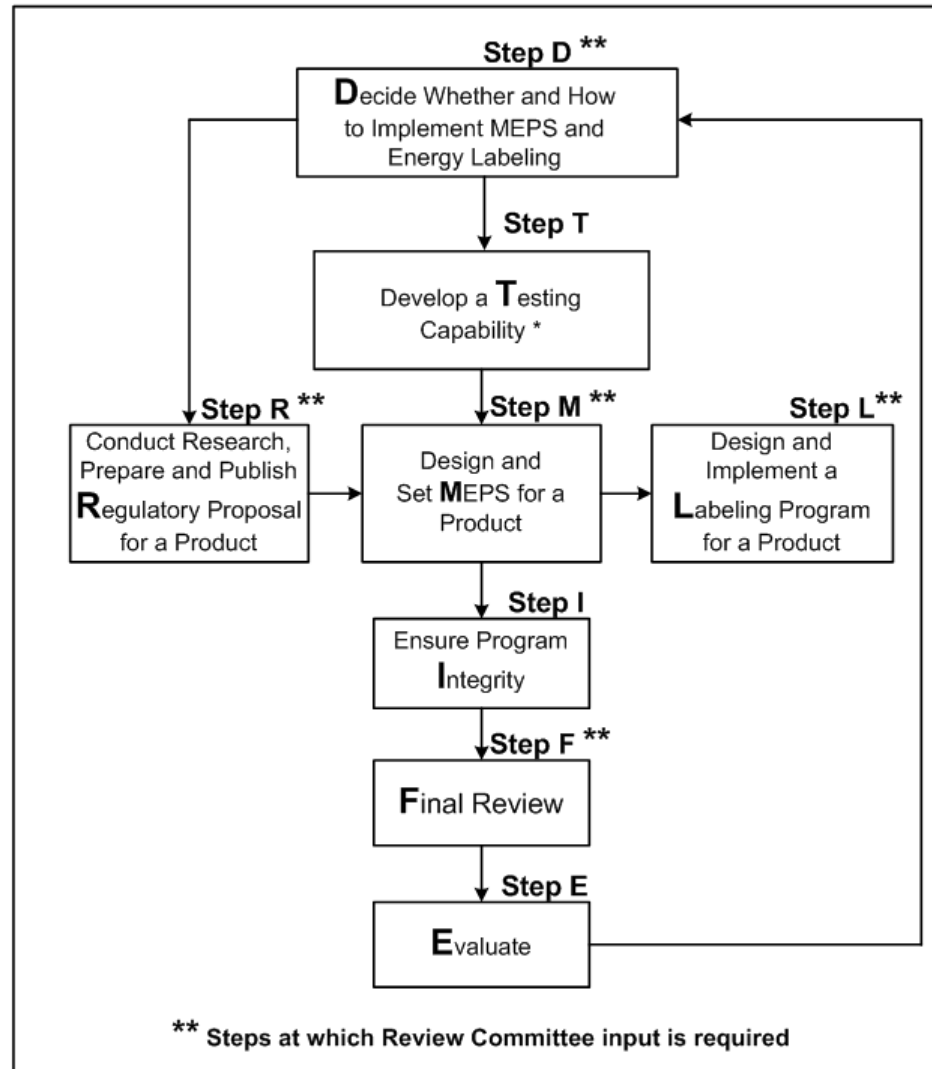
In recent years more and more equipment and appliances have been made subject to MEPS and mandatory labeling systems. The labels are so well known that now more than 95% of consumers in Australia and New Zealand recognize the energy label and many rely on the labels for important information when making the decision to purchase an appliance.

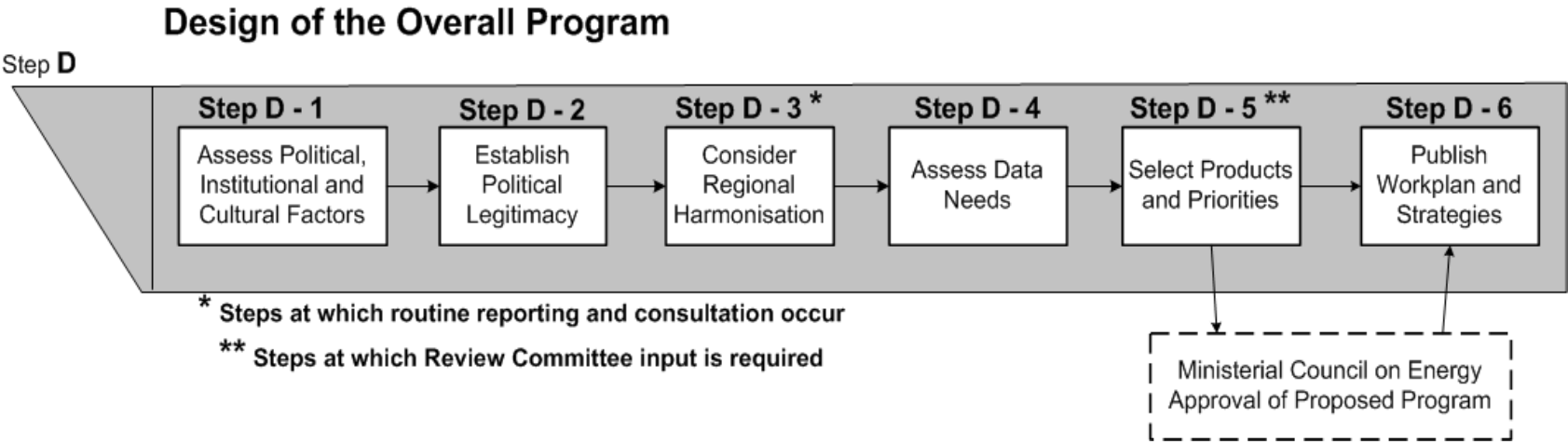
The use of MEPS and energy labels has been shown to deliver significant savings to consumers and to make a real contribution to minimising Australian and New Zealand greenhouse gas emissions. In the last few years MEPS and labeling have been introduced for some types of domestic air-conditioners, extended to clothes dryers and now is being prepared for introduction to external power supplies and digital set-top boxes.

The process of establishing MEPS levels and introducing labeling is a co-operative process with the relevant industry members that involves both technical and economic analysis and negotiation of appropriate targets and timetables. The flow charts on the following pages illustrate the process involved in identifying a product to be regulated and then establishing the appropriate MEPS levels and labeling regimes.

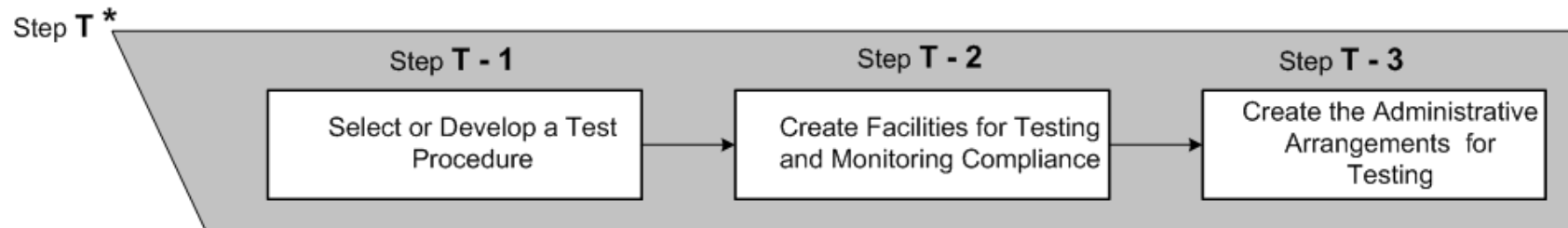
For further information and MEPS and mandatory energy rating labeling schemes in Australia and New Zealand go to www.energyrating.gov.au

The Australian MEPS and Energy Labeling Regulatory Process





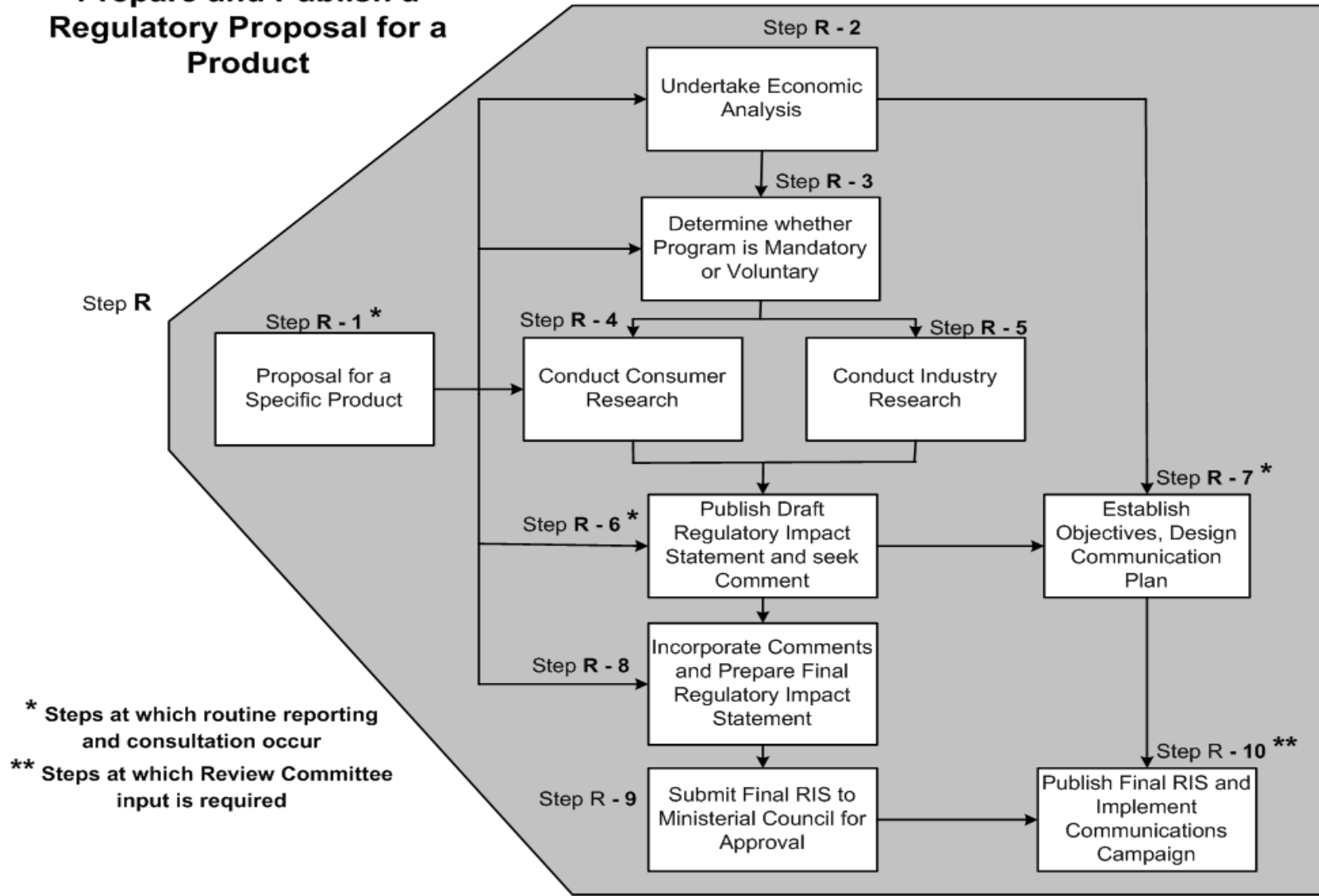
Testing Capacity



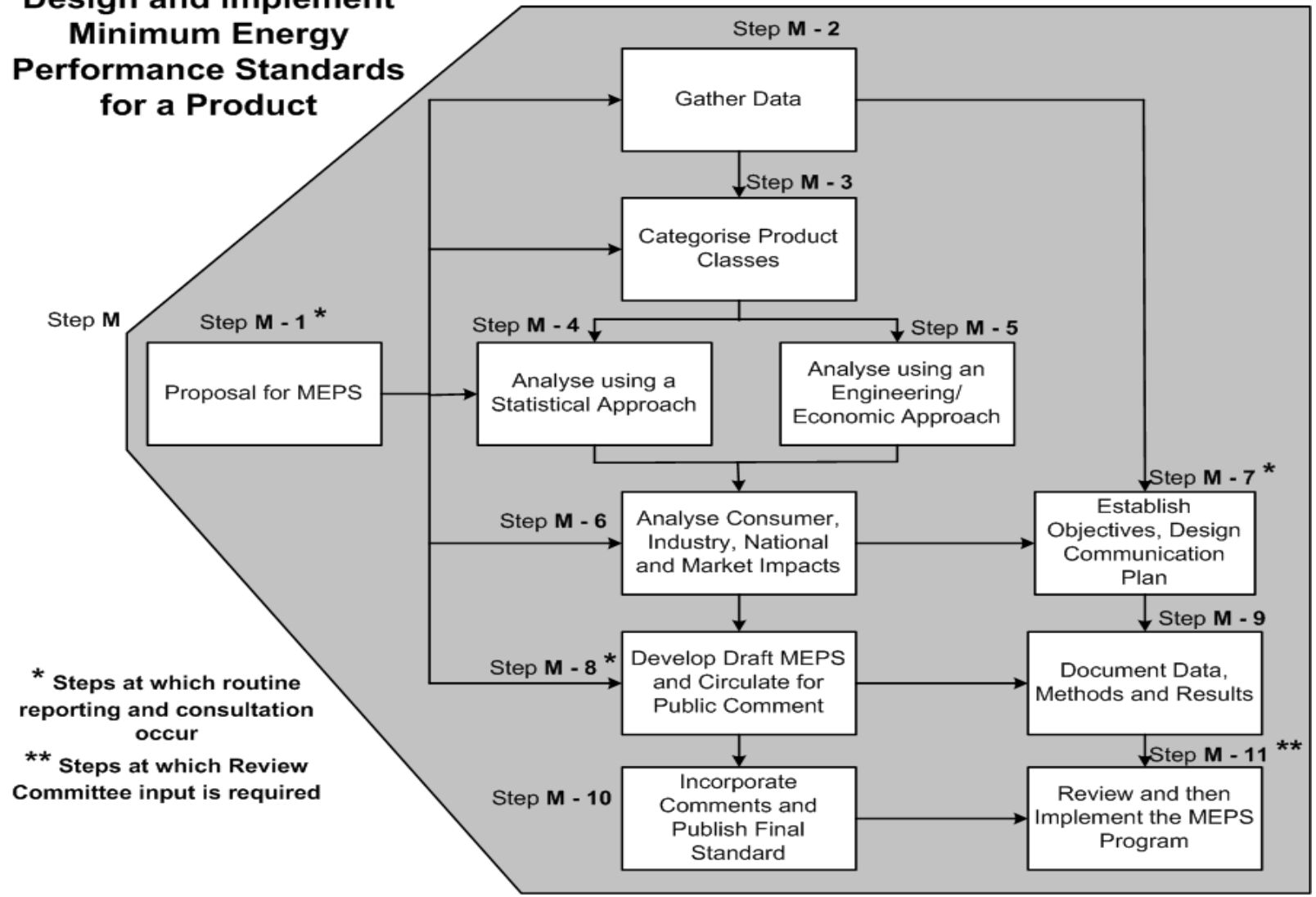
* Steps at which routine reporting and consultation occur

** Steps at which Review Committee input is required

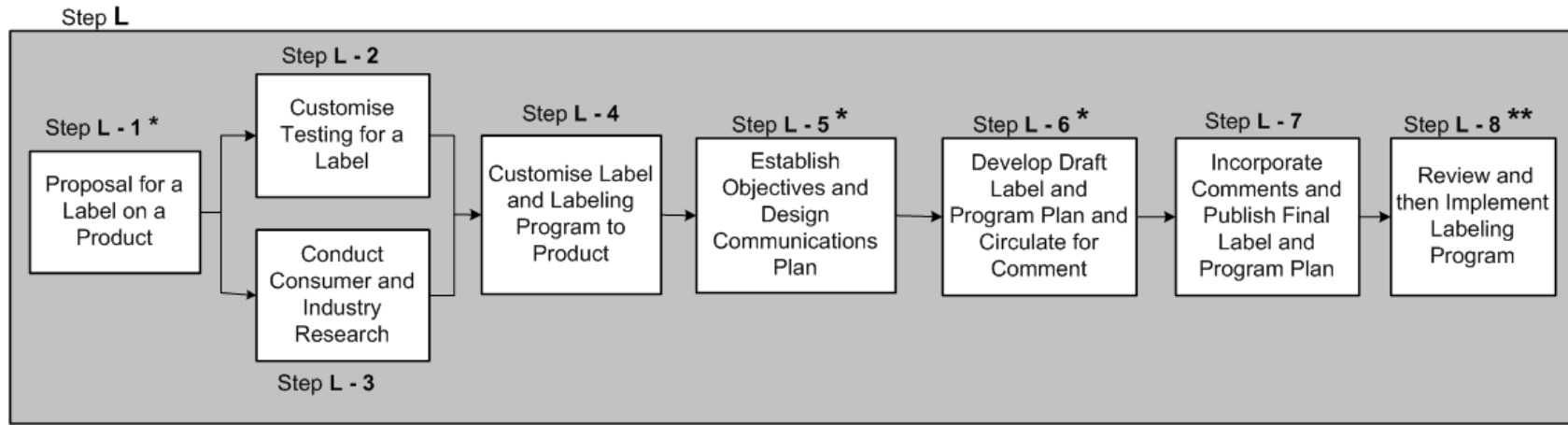
Prepare and Publish a Regulatory Proposal for a Product



Design and Implement Minimum Energy Performance Standards for a Product



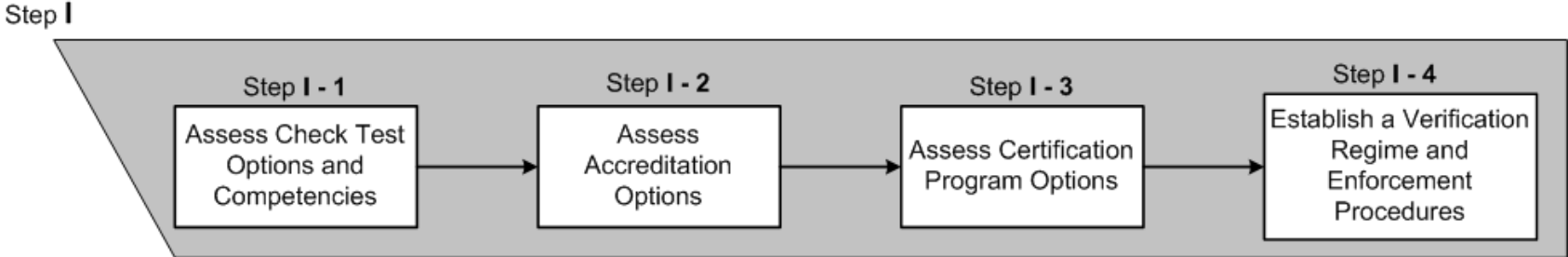
Develop a Label and a Labeling Program For a Product

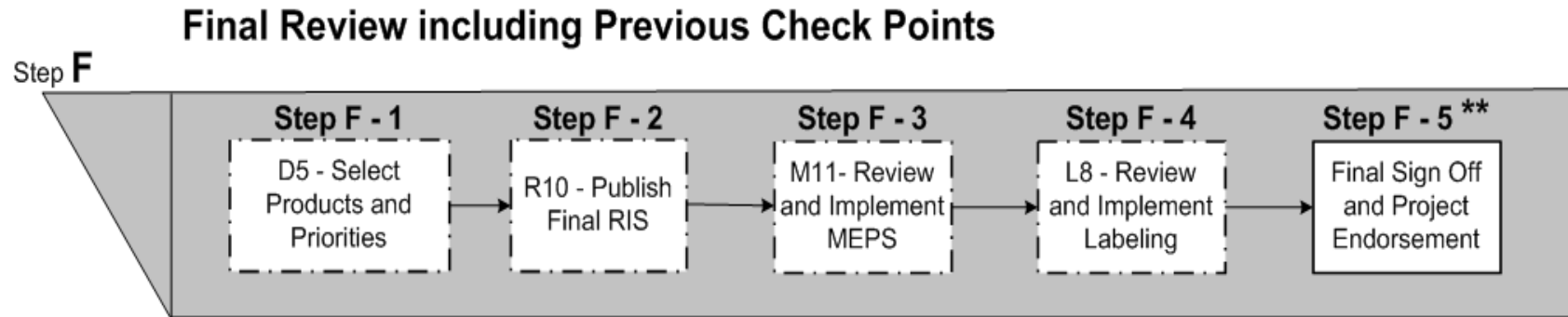


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Integrity in a Box

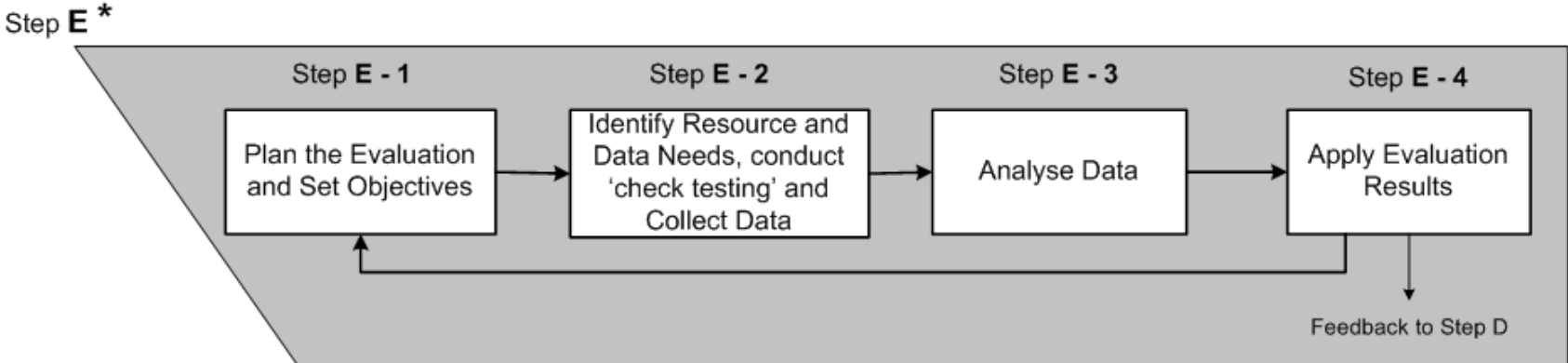




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Evaluation



* Steps at which routine reporting and consultation occur

** Steps at which Review Committee input is required