



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Water Resources

Australian Greenhouse Office

Dear Stakeholder

POSTPONEMENT OF THE PROPOSED MINIMUM ENERGY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (MEPS) LEVELS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS

I write to your company in its capacity as an importer or manufacturer of air conditioning equipment to advise of a decision to postpone the third round of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS). It was governments' plan to increase the next MEPS levels for air conditioners with implementation date from 1 October 2008 as indicated in AS/NZS3823.2-2005.

In response to calls from industry groups, energy efficiency regulatory agencies have agreed to reconsider the timetable for implementation of these increased levels of MEPS. A delay will allow more time for industry to take account of the revised energy labelling algorithm which will be introduced in 2009 as well as other developments imposing regulatory requirements upon air conditioners in fields other than energy efficiency.

Energy regulators will work with your trade and professional associations to prepare a cost benefit analysis leading to a Regulatory Impact Statement for release later this year. Government will propose a date for the next stage of MEPS for air conditioners in the RIS and this will be confirmed once it has been approved by the Ministerial Council on Energy. The results will be communicated to industry and recorded in Standard AS/NZS3823.2. While it is difficult to speculate at this time, it is possible the delay may be between 12 months and 24 months (after the original date of 1 October 2008). Governments will be looking to maintain the proposed stringency levels expressed in the current standard unless industry presents compelling reasons for variation.

Energy regulators are also proposing to prepare a decade long strategy for consumer air conditioners to provide clear guidance on the likely timetable for future regulatory intervention. Hopefully, this effort will assist you in planning for the future.

The Equipment Energy Efficiency committee wishes to thank all industry groups for their submissions in this regard and to assure those who have decided to import more efficient products in line with the original 2008 regulatory proposal that the star rating label revision in 2009 will provide a clear marketing advantage for those products. Should you need further information or clarification, please contact either myself or Eva Oberender (02) 6274 1674 or eva.oberender@environment.gov.au. Should you need further information on any regulatory matters (including registrations), please contact any of the Regulators (contact details are listed at www.energyrating.gov.au/reg.html).

Yours faithfully

Mr Shane Holt
Chair, Equipment Energy Efficiency Committee
16 May 2007

Reference: 2007/PM/EL/AC/AC/MEPS