



Dear Stakeholder,

Proposal to Mandate the Energy Performance of Set-top Boxes: Update to Introduction Date and Scope

As part of the joint work programme for equipment energy efficiency (E3) between Australia and New Zealand, government agencies responsible for product energy efficiency are currently investigating a proposal to mandate the energy performance of digital Set-top Boxes (STB).

This letter is to advise you that the E3 Committee has agreed to a two month delay to the proposed implementation date of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for STBs, moving from 1 October 2008 to 1 December 2008 in Australia.

As you will be aware, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) on this proposal was open for public comment, closing in November 2007. Taking into account submissions received on that document, the following recommendations will be made to the various government jurisdictions responsible for this proposal:

- 1 To implement mandatory energy performance standards for STBs in regulation;
- 2 That STBs covered by this RIS include those that are capable of decoding video transport streams, are MPEG2, and without a recording function (i.e. without a hard drive);
- 3 To the test method AS/NZS 62087:2004, which specifies methods of measurement for the power consumption of, amongst other home entertainment equipment, STBs for consumer use;
- 4 That STBs must meet or surpass the energy performance requirements set down in the draft Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 62087.2 (MEPS requirements for digital television STBs);
- 5 That the amendments take effect not earlier than 1 December 2008 in Australia;
- 6 That a more stringent MEPS level should be set for free to air satellite STBs. This will be achieved by an amendment to the published standard, and will mainly affect the New Zealand market. For this reason it is proposed that the implementation of the MEPS for STBs in New Zealand be delayed until April 2009.

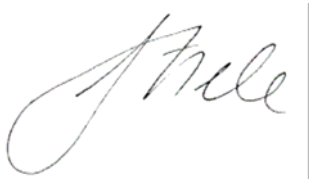
- 7 To have all Australian jurisdictions take the necessary administrative actions to ensure that the suite of regulations can take effect from not earlier than 1 December 2008.

The revised implementation date is to account for a small delay in the expected publication of amendments to the Standard (AS/NZS62087, parts 1 and 2), whilst still working towards regulating this product as soon as possible so that suppliers who have committed to the October date will not be disadvantaged by a long delay.

The E3 anticipates work will be completed and the amendments to the Standard will be published in the next three to four months. It is also planned to have the registration system available from July/August.

If you have any further queries about this please do not hesitate contact me at energyrating@environment.gov.au.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Stiele', is positioned to the left of a vertical line that serves as a signature separator.

Simone Tiele,
Secretary
E3 Electrical Committee