



Dear Stakeholder,

SUBJECT: NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS

I am writing to you in your capacity as an importer or manufacturer of air conditioning equipment to remind you of new Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) levels and new energy labelling requirements for air conditioners with a cooling output up to 65kW. More specifically:

1. The status of the proposal to implement revised MEPS and a new energy label from April 2010; and
2. COAG announcement on increased MEPS from October 2011.

The Ministerial Council on Energy has now endorsed the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement for Air Conditioners. A majority of Ministers accepted the case for regulation and setting revised mandatory minimum energy performance requirements and a new energy label and algorithm. A new part 2 standard AS/NZS3823.2:2009 was published on 6 October 2009. Implementation of the new requirements will commence from 1 April 2010 as follows:

April 2010

- New energy labelling algorithms and a new label design;
- More stringent MEPS levels for most products in cooling mode;
- Introduction of MEPS levels for heating mode for the first time for all products with a heating function;
- Introduction of a measure to reduce both standby power consumption and crankcase heater energy use by inclusion of this energy into the new energy labelling algorithm from April 2010; and
- Introduction of requirements to report the presence of Demand Response (DR) capabilities in air conditioner units at the time of product registration with regulators.

April 2011

- An upgrade of MEPS levels for heating and cooling with the inclusion of standby power and other non-operational energy consumption; and
- Inclusion of mandatory power factor requirements.

A fact sheet summarising the new requirements, including the transitional arrangements, is available from <http://www.energyrating.gov.au/pubs/factsheet-trans-ac.pdf>.

At the Council of Australian Governments meeting on 2 July 2009, all Australian Governments agreed to a comprehensive 10-year strategy to accelerate energy efficiency improvements for householders and businesses across all sectors of the economy and signed the National Partnership Agreement on Energy Efficiency to deliver a nationally-consistent and cooperative approach to energy efficiency. One of the measures announced as part of the National Partnership Agreement was “introducing in 2010 new standards for the energy performance of air conditioners and increasing the standard by a further ten per cent from 1 October 2011.”

The Equipment Energy Efficiency Committee (E3) has commenced development of a regulatory impact statement (RIS) that will look at options for implementation of the COAG announcement of a ten per cent increase from October 2011. It is anticipated that this document will be released for consultation in early 2010. Stakeholder comment will be invited and will inform the subsequent Decision Regulatory Impact Statement.

E3 has also commenced development of a RIS to mandate the presence of a demand response capability (in accordance with AS4755.3.1:2009) in all air conditioners covered by AS/NZS3823.2:2009. This RIS is also scheduled for release in early 2010.

Thank you for your contributions over the years and I look forward to continuing to work with you on these important initiatives.

Yours sincerely



Sara Williams
Director, Heating and Cooling Team
Appliance Energy Efficiency Branch
11 November 2009

