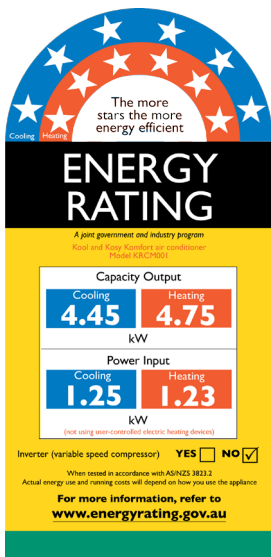


The Revised Energy Rating Label Air-conditioners

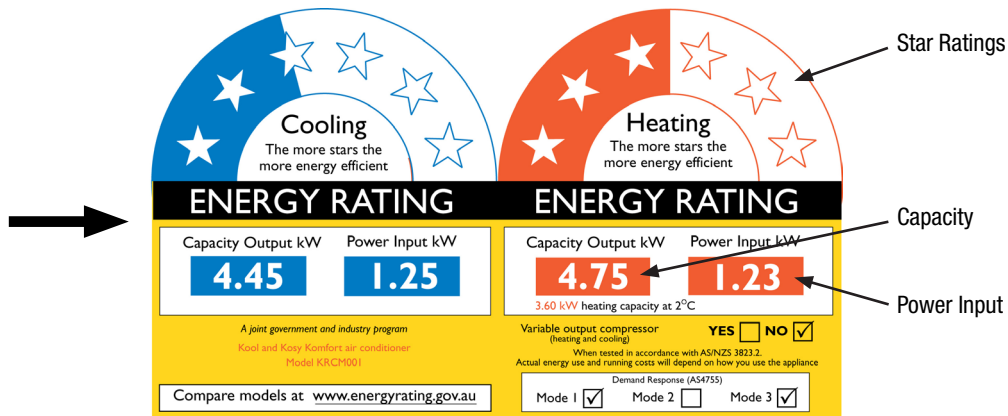
On 1 April 2010 new energy rating labelling regulations for air-conditioners came into force throughout Australia. All air-conditioners imported or manufactured after this date must meet new strengthened minimum energy performance standards and carry a new form of energy rating label. For a period of time there will be an overlap between older stock that was labelled under the old system and newer stock that needs to carry the revised label under the new system. This overlap will continue until all older stock has been relabelled or sold.

What is the difference between the old and the new label ?

While the appearance of the new label is similar; compared to the old label the revised rating scale on the new label will reduce the number of stars on the label for the same energy consumption. For example, an appliance that was previously rated as a 6-star product will now only be rated as 2.5 to 3-stars under the new scale. This means that the product delivered to your door (with the new label) may show a different star rating to the product on display in the store (with the old label). Rest assured, the product and its performance are un-changed, all that has changed is the rating scale.



Old Label

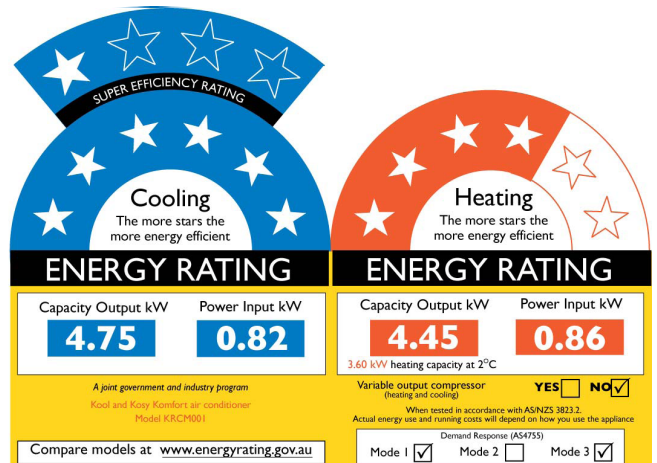


New Label

Why change the rating scale?

By 2010 it had been 10 years since the rating scale had been updated and continuous improvement in air-conditioner performance over that period had resulted in star ratings for all products clustering at the top of the range (4 to 6 stars). To overcome this disincentive to further efficiency improvements, a new more stringent scale has been introduced to provide expanded scope for improvements in energy efficiency.

In addition to a new scale, the star rating has now been extended from 6-stars to 10-stars to allow scope for 'super efficient' products that should appear in shops over the coming years.



Super Efficient Product

How can I tell if it is a new or an old label?

The old label is easily identified by the green strip at the base of the label. New labels have no green strip. Also, the new label for reverse cycle units is effectively split into 2 labels (see image on previous page). You can always go to the energyrating website and view a list of products showing both the old and the new star ratings.

How to choose an efficient air-conditioner

Decide on the type and features you want. Seek professional advice to determine the output capacity (kW) required to suit your particular circumstances (capacity output for cooling and heating is marked on the label – see above).

Use the energy rating labels and/or the energyrating website to help you select an energy efficient model. Also consider selecting products with the 'variable output compressor' box on the label ticked, these products are generally more efficient when operating at part load i.e. on moderately hot days.

For more detailed information go to:

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/pubs/factsheet-trans-ac.pdf> - for more information on the transition.

http://www.energyrating.gov.au/appsearch/air_srch.asp - for listings of air-conditioners and their energy ratings.

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/acl.html> - for tips for choosing an efficient air-conditioner.

