

Household Refrigeration



New Regulations Information Sheet



(Image shown is for illustration purposes only)

Household refrigerators/freezers sold or hired in New Zealand must, by law, comply with [Minimum Energy Performance Standards \(MEPS\)](#) and [Mandatory Energy Performance Labelling \(MEPL\)/Energy Rating Label \(ERL\) requirements](#). This document outlines the new requirements and how to meet them if you import or manufacture household refrigerators/freezers in New Zealand.

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This document is intended as a guide only, please refer to the regulations and applicable standards.

What you need to know first?

It is anticipated that the amended regulations will be approved and come into force in mid-2021. An exact date cannot be provided at this time as the process of amending the regulations is dependent on a number of regulatory and administrative requirements, but in the interim you must either:

- Meet the current regulation requirements, or
- meet the new regulation requirements voluntarily.

A minimum of 6 months' notice will be provided before the amended regulations come into force. Once the new regulations become mandatory all household refrigerating appliances will have to meet the new requirements.

Our information sheet on the current regulation for household refrigerating appliances can be found here:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Information-sheet-2019-Household-refrigeration.pdf>

To understand the new regulation requirements, please read the rest of this document.

What are the main differences between the current and new regulations?

There have been a number of changes:

- change of scope to clarify:
 - wine storage appliances, and bar fridges
- international test methods have been adopted,
- new MEPS levels and assessment,
- new Energy Rating Label calculation.

What is the same between the old and new regulations?

- You must still provide sales data annually. To see the requirements of providing sales data please see: <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Information-sheet-2019-Household-refrigeration.pdf>
- You must still register your models before sales commence.

Which standards and regulations apply?

New Regulations

The new NZ regulations are currently being drafted, but will have the same scope as the Australian determination:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01066>

Current Regulations

Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2002/0009/1/atest/DLM108730.html#DLM109302>

Which fridges and freezers are included?

MEPS covers insulated refrigerator/freezer cabinets that:

- have one or more compartments that are controlled at specific temperatures; and
- are intended for the storage and preservation of foodstuffs that require refrigeration at specified temperature conditions; and
- are cooled by natural convection or a forced convection system whereby the cooling is produced using vapour compression cycle technology; and
- can be connected to mains power; and
- are ordinarily supplied for household use.

Which fridges and freezers are excluded?

MEPS does **not** apply to;

- portable products that are 12 or 24 volt DC and:
 - chest configuration, or
 - upright and have a volume less than 80 litres
- standalone wines storage cabinets that are:
 - exclusively for the storage and/or the maturation of wine; and
 - have shelving specifically designed for wine; and
 - the capability to maintain a nominated temperature between 5 and 20°C.
- products that are exclusively used in vehicles
- glass door beverage coolers (these are covered under the refrigerated cabinets products class)
- products that have a total volume of less than 30 litres where the refrigeration function is secondary, such as boiled and cooled water dispensers
- products that have no options for connection to a 230 volt or 400 volt mains electricity supply at 50 Hz
- stand-alone ice-makers
- products that cool using technologies other than the vapour compression cycle

What are the MEPS requirements for household fridges and freezers?

Applicable MEPS levels can be found in clause 4.2 of AS/NZS 4474:2018.

Testing is conducted to AS/NZS 62552.1-3:2018 or IEC 62552.1-3:2015.

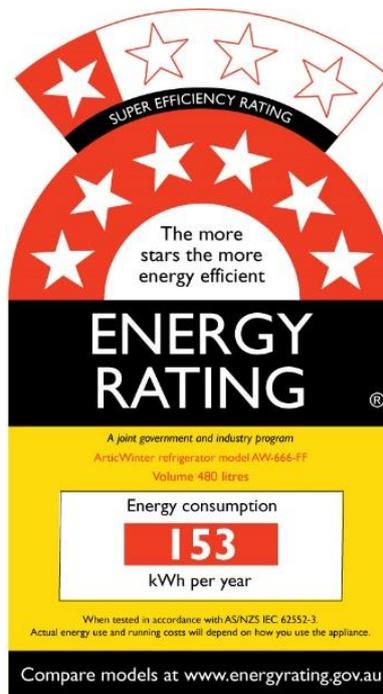
What are the ERL requirements for household fridges and freezers?

Testing for the ERL has changed and now requires testing with an ambient temperature of 32°C and 16°C. These two tests enable the performance of the product to be determined at an ambient temperature of 22°C. The test method has changed to include load testing which simulates door openings and warm food being placed in the refrigerated appliance. This means energy performance on the label better reflects real life energy consumption.

The difference in performance to move from one star rating to another on the energy rating label has also changed. With these changes the old and new energy rating labels cannot be compared.

The look of the energy rating label has also changed. Most of the changes are cosmetic, but the volume of the product is now displayed on the label.

The measuring process for volume has also changed.



What is a family of models?

A range of fridges/freezers may be registered under a single registration if they:

- have the same brand,
- have identical energy performance characteristics (on which compliance with MEPS and MEPL is assessed),
- rely on, and use the same test report data for registration purposes.

What are the changes to the registration system?

Products are still registered through the Energy Rating website: <https://reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/login/?next=/>

To register a product to the current regulations or understand how to register a product please see:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Information-sheet-2019-Household-refrigeration.pdf>

There is now two different options when registering a product:

- New Zealand – AS/NZS 4474.2:2009/Amdt 1:2011
- New Zealand - New requirements (Household Refrigerating Appliances) 2019

The first option is to register to the current regulations, while the second option is to register to the new requirements.

What if I want to import fridges and freezers and sell them in both Australia and New Zealand?

This information sheet applies to New Zealand only. If you wish to import and sell fridges/freezers in both Australia and New Zealand then the product must be registered in Australia. The fridge/freezer needs to meet the MEPS and MEPL requirements outlined by the Greenhouse Energy Emission Standard (GEMS) Determinations. Information on the GEMS Determinations can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01066>

Where do I get additional information?

More information about regulated products and how to meet your legal obligations can be found at www.eeca.govt.nz/product-standards.

There is also information on the Energy Rating website at www.energyrating.gov.au.

If you have any questions, please email us at compliance@eeca.govt.nz, or phone EECA on 0800 358 676.