



Exposure Draft background information

Swimming pool pumps

In December 2018, Energy Ministers agreed to the introduction of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and mandatory energy rating labelling for swimming pool pumps. This is part of the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program, which is a joint program of the Australian, State, Territory and New Zealand governments to develop and apply energy efficiency standards and energy labelling to equipment and appliances.

In Australia, the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012* regulates the energy efficiency of over 20 types of appliances and equipment. The proposed *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Pool Pumps) Determination 2020* (the Determination), would regulate the energy efficiency specifications for pool pumps from 2021. Until now there has been no regulation of pool pumps, however since 2010 the E3 Program has administered a Voluntary Energy Rating Label Program (VERLP) for pool pumps, which was intended as a transitional step to mandatory labelling or MEPS requirements.

The draft Determination proposes to set MEPS and energy labelling requirements for pool pumps, based on the test methodology in Australian Standard, AS 5102.1:2019. The draft Determination also provides an energy rating icon that can be used in online or digital advertising.

The draft Determination can be found at: www.energyrating.gov.au and anyone with an interest or a concern may provide comments on the proposed regulations. The closing date for written submissions is **5pm AEDT, Tuesday 8 December 2020**. Submissions should include 'Pool Pump Determination' in the subject line and be sent by email to: PoolPumps@industry.gov.au.

It is proposed the MEPS and labelling would be mandatory from 1 October 2021. However, applicants can commence registering to the Determination on a voluntary basis the day after the Determination has been signed and published on the Federal Register of Legislation. The additional timeframe to register allows applicants greater flexibility to adjust to the new regulation.

The E3 Program recognises the effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the industry, including shutdowns, physical distancing restrictions, and subsequent flow-on effects. Comments and views on whether the proposed commencement date allows the industry sufficient time to comply with the requirements, are welcomed.

Pool pumps that were manufactured in, or imported into, Australia prior to the proposed commencement date of 1 October 2021, and which do not meet the mandated MEPS levels, would be covered by the grandfathering arrangements of the GEMS Act. This means any remaining stock could be supplied until it was exhausted, but no additional stock could be manufactured or imported from the commencement date.

From the commencement date of 1 October 2021, pool pumps which can comply with the new MEPS requirements would be required to be registered before being supplied, regardless of when they were imported or manufactured. The Department is considering ways it can assist suppliers in managing this transition and would welcome comments and suggestions on this.