



# GEMS Regulator Notice

## Section 34A Declaration Aligns Washing Machine Standards with International Safety Norms

7 October 2025

On 19 September 2025, the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Regulator made the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Clothes Washing Machines Determination—Changes to Incorporated Instrument) Declaration (No. 1) 2025* (the declaration) in relation to the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Clothes Washing Machines) Determination 2024 (the determination), which commenced on 4 October 2025.

The declaration provides that the incorporated standard in the determination, AS/NZS 2040.1:2025, in effect, contains the changes made by AS/NZS 2040.1:2021 Amd 1:2025, published on 25 July 2025.

With the GEMS Regulator's declaration now in effect, suppliers are permitted to use sodium percarbonate as an alternative to sodium perborate tetrahydrate when testing washing machines in accordance with the determination. The declaration enhances flexibility and safety by allowing substitution with a less hazardous chemical. It also responds to international concerns about sodium perborate tetrahydrate—now banned in several jurisdictions—and ensures alignment with international standards and the preferences of accredited testing facilities.

The purpose of a *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012* section 34A declaration is to provide the GEMS Regulator with the flexibility to update incorporated standards or documents within a determination to reflect the most current version, even if the determination references an earlier version of the standard or document. This ensures that determinations remain aligned with the latest industry practices and testing methodologies.