Introduction

From 1 April 2014, regulatory requirements for air conditioners and heat pumps manufactured in or imported into Australia will be set under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps) Determination 2013 (Determination).

This is a replacement Determination that will regulate multi-split air conditioners and heat pumps for the first time, in addition to products covered in the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps) Determination 2012. It does this by calling up requirements set out in AS/NZS 3823.2:2013.

The Determination does not affect the registration of any model registered under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps) Determination 2012.

GEMS Level Requirements

The GEMS level requirements in relation to energy use are set out in:


What air conditioners and heat pumps are covered?

The air conditioners and heat pumps covered by the Determination are appliances that are of the vapour compression type with a rated total cooling capacity of 65 kilowatts or less in the product classes set out in the Determination.

Please refer to subsection 5 (2) of the Determination for full details of the specified characteristics for covered air conditioners and heat pumps. Note: product classes 8-12 incorporate multi-split system air conditioners and heat pumps.

What product types are not covered?

The Determination does not cover:

- close control air conditioners and liquid-chilling packages;
- evaporative coolers or any other cooling systems that are not of the vapour compression type;
- ground-water-sourced heat pumps or ground-loop-sourced heat pumps; or
- unbalanced air conditioners and spot coolers;
- air conditioners powered by mains electricity specifically designed and sold only for installation in end-use mobile applications of caravans, mobile homes, camper vans, boats and rail cars;
- air conditioners powered by mains electricity specifically designed and sold only for installation in specialised high temperature industrial applications, such as crane cabins used over blast furnaces; or
- products that solely deliver conditioned outdoor air to an indoor conditioned space.
Testing Requirements

The MEPS testing requirement for air conditioners and heat pumps must be in accordance with clauses 3.3 to 3.8, 3.10 and 3.11 of AS/NZS 3823.2:2013.

From 1 May 2014, registrants will be required to use the test method from the 2012 versions of AS/NZS3823.1.1 and AS/NZS3823.1.2 for non-ducted and ducted systems. Please refer to subsection 6(3) of the Determination for more information.

How to register

All air conditioners and heat pumps covered by the Determination supplied or offered for supply in Australia must be registered with the Australian GEMS Regulator.

A test report is not required to be submitted as part of the registration process. However, manufacturers or importers are required to provide a copy of the test report to the Regulator on request. For this reason it is recommended that an electronic copy of the test report be uploaded when making a registration application. Instructions on the use of the on-line registration system are available at: www.energyrating.gov.au/resources/program-publications/?viewPublicationID=2139

GEMS Labelling Requirements

The GEMS labelling requirements for non-ducted, single-phase air conditioners and heat pumps are those set out in section 2 and 5 of AS/NZS 3823.2:2013 with the exception of air conditioners and heat pumps if they are:

(a) designed for non-domestic application;
(b) not on display for sale through retail outlets, and;
(c) not promoted in any catalogue or advertising material that could be interpreted as suitable for some residential applications.

There are no GEMS labelling requirements for water cooled condensers, water-to-air heat pumps, brine-to-air heat pumps and multi-split systems.

Other Requirements

There are no other GEMS requirements for products covered by this Determination.

Need more information?


The current standard is available from the SAI Global website (www.saiglobal.com) under license from Standards Australia.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is provided as guidance only. It has been developed by the GEMS Regulator to help registrants of air conditioners and heat pumps to better understand their responsibilities under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012 (the GEMS Act) and the Determination. This document should be read in conjunction with the GEMS Act and the supporting Regulations and Instruments. Changes to legislation may affect the information in this document. Ultimately, persons are responsible for determining their obligations under the law, and for applying the law to their individual circumstances. This document does not constitute legal advice and is not a substitute for independent professional advice.