



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Steve Anderson
Secretariat
AREMA
PO Box 3961
Manuka ACT 2603

12 October 2009

ENERGY RATING LABEL CHANGES FOR AIR CONDITIONERS, REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS

Dear Steve,

All Australian jurisdictions and the New Zealand Government have agreed to revise and improve the appliance label, one of the longest running programs under the Australian National Framework for Energy Efficiency and the New Zealand National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. These programs have enabled the achievement of some substantial energy usage and carbon emission reductions.

The Equipment Energy Efficiency program, which includes Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for equipment and appliances has contributed to this. This program includes the consumer focussed Energy Rating label.

The purpose of this letter is to advise you about some upgrades to Standards and Energy Rating Label calculations so that you are able to keep your members informed.

The aim of the Energy Rating Label is to assist consumer decision making by providing easy to read comparative data at point of sale. It also assists suppliers and retailers to differentiate product in a market where consumers are becoming increasingly environmentally savvy. Research has shown that consumers value energy ratings as a key contributor in their decision making process with 90% using information on the energy label when buying an appliance.¹

New Standards

New refrigerator and freezer standards were published in April 2009 and air-conditioning standards were released on 6 October.

As a result refrigerators and freezers will need to be registered to the new standards as from 1 October 2009 and air-conditioners from December 2009 (two months following the release of the standard).

¹ Appliance performance labelling in Australia and New Zealand, Artcraft Research, Canberra 2005

As of 1 April 2010 all non-exempt items will need to be registered to the new standards (see time table attached). The latter will include new requirements to rate heating efficiency on air-conditioners with both cooling and heating modes.

New Labels

Industry adoption of current technology, to increase the energy efficiency of individual products, has resulted in the clustering of products at the higher end of the scale. As a result of this refrigerators, freezers and air-conditioning units have been re-graded to a new 10 star system to enable clearer differentiation.

While the appearance and dimensions of the label will be similar, the revised algorithms will initially reduce the number of stars on the label for products which have the same energy consumption. This re-grading will allow consumers to make better informed cost and energy-saving decisions, as well as providing an incentive for manufacturers to continually improve the energy efficiency of their products.

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While the 6-star label will continue to appear on all products, the new 10-star label can be awarded to manufacturers of super-efficient appliances.

Please see images and fact sheets attached for more information.

Additional information and communication materials will be forwarded, prior to 1 April 2010 to assist you to further explain the transition to your members.

In the meantime if you require further information please send your questions to energyrating@environment.gov.au

Yours sincerely
Mel Slade

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Slade', written in a cursive style.

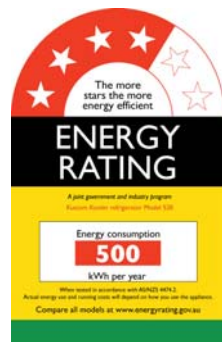
Director

Important dates

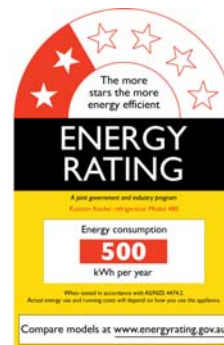
Product	Date	To Do
Refrigerators & Freezers	1 October 2009	Only registrations to the new standard AS/NZS44742:2009 will be accepted.
	1 April 2010	All products manufactured or imported must be compliant with and registered to the new standard.
	1 April 2010	New MEPS and energy labelling (10-star) .
Air-conditioners	October 2009	New standard published.
	December 2009	All products manufactured or imported must be compliant with and registered to the new standard.
	1 April 2010	New MEPS and energy labelling (10-star).

Refrigerator and Freezer labels

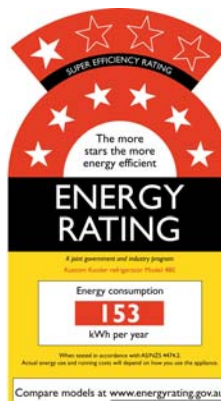
Old label



New label

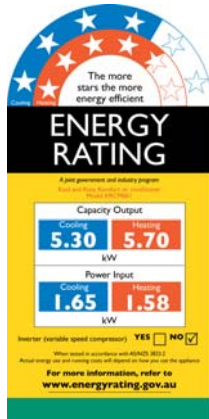


New Super Efficiency label

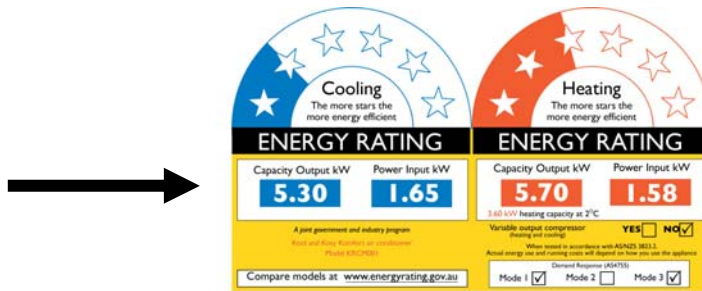


Air-conditioner labels

Old label



New label



New Super Efficiency Label

