

Air Conditioners (heat pumps)

New Regulations Information Sheet



(Image shown is for illustration purposes only)

Air conditioners (which include heat pumps) 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 air conditioners and/or heat pumps 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?

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 via the [Gazette](#). Once the new regulations become mandatory all air conditioners will have to meet the new requirements.

Information on the current regulation for air conditioners can be found here: www.eeca.govt.nz/our-work/product-regulations/equipment-energy-efficiency/products-under-e3/air-conditioners/

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:

- There is a new label, called the Zoned Energy Rating Label (ZERL)
- Cooling MEPS levels have increased in NZ to mirror Australian MEPS levels
- Single and double duct portable air conditioning units are included
- Test methods and requirements for all regulated product classes have changed significantly
- Registration of multi-split units air conditioning has changed

What is the same between the old and new regulations?

- You must still provide statistical information annually. To see the requirements of providing statistical information please see: www.eeca.govt.nz/our-work/product-regulations/how-to-comply/manufacturers-and-importers/providing-sales-data/
- 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/F2019L00490>

Current Regulations

Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002:

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

Which air conditioners are included?

The new regulations covers air conditioners that use the vapour compression cycle and are:

- Single and/or three phase, and
- Ducted and/or non-ducted , and
- Single-split or multi-split, and
- Have a cooling capacity less than or equal to 65 kW.
- Portable units are now included.

MEPL covers air conditioners that are:

- Single phase, and
- Single-split, or
- Portable

Which air conditioners are excluded?

MEPS and labelling do not apply to:

- close controlled air conditioners within the scope of AS/NZS 4965 and chillers within the scope of AS/NZS 4776, or
- ground-water-sourced and ground-loop-sourced air conditioners as defined in AS/NZS 3823.1.3, or
- unbalanced air conditioners and spot coolers (these include some portable types), or
- air conditioners specifically designed and sold only for installation in mobile applications such as caravans, mobile homes, campervans, boats and rail cars.

Labelling does not apply to non-ducted single split single phase air conditioners that meet the following criteria:

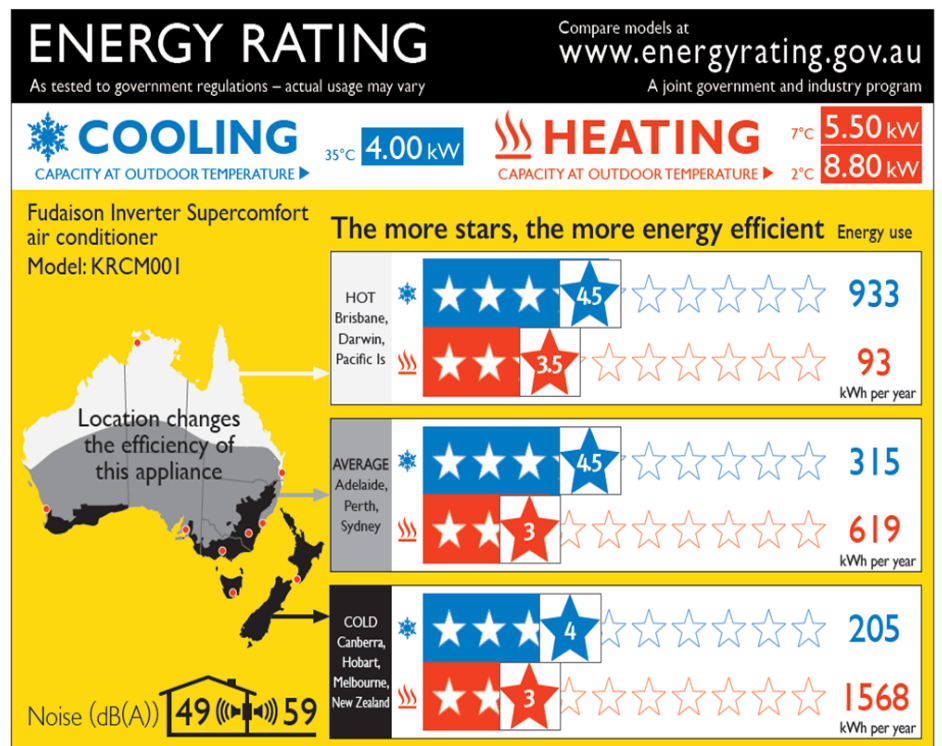
- designed for non-residential applications, and
- not on display for sale through retail outlets, and not promoted in any catalogue or advertising material that could be interpreted as suitable for some residential applications.

What is the new label?

Air conditioners registered to the new regulations must be sold with a Zoned Energy Rating Label (ZERL) as shown below. The label is obtained through the online registration system when a product is registered:

<https://reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/login/>

The new label has three climate zones (hot, average, and cold). New Zealand is one zone on the label (Cold). The new label displays the energy consumption for heating and cooling in kWh, and noise levels of indoor and outdoor units.



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: www.eeca.govt.nz/our-work/product-regulations/how-to-comply/manufacturers-and-importers/registering-your-product/

There is now 5 different options when registering a product:

- AS/NZS 3823.2:2013 [Multi-Split]
- AS/NZS 3823.2:2013 [Non Multi-Split]
- [SEER Non Multi-Split <=65kW] (Air Conditioners up to 65kW) 2019
- [Unitary Single-Duct] (Air Conditioners up to 65kW) 2019
- [SEER Multi-Split <=65kW] (Air Conditioners up to 65kW) 2019

The first two options are to register under the current regulations, the last 3 are to register to the new requirements.

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/our-work/product-regulations/how-to-comply/the-regulations/

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

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