

# Air Conditioners (heat pumps)

## Information Sheet

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(Image shown is for illustration purposes only)

Air conditioners (which include heat pumps) that are sold, leased or hired in New Zealand must, by law, comply with [Minimum Energy Performance Standards \(MEPS\)](#) requirements. This document outlines these requirements and how to meet them if you import or manufacture air conditioners and/or heat pumps in New Zealand<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Where the term 'air conditioners' is used in this document, it implies that heat pumps are included.

## Contents

What do I need to do to comply with the law? .....	2
Why have MEPS & Labelling for air conditioners? .....	2
Which air conditioners are included?.....	2
Which air conditioners are excluded?.....	3
How are energy levels calculated and what are MEPS requirements for air conditioners? .....	3
Which standards and regulations apply?.....	4
What are the labelling requirements for air conditioners? .....	5
How do you display the energy rating label? .....	5
How do I register an air conditioner on the Energy Rating website?.....	6
What is a family of models? .....	7
What information do I need to provide to EECA each year and how do I do it? .....	7
What if I want to import air conditioners and sell them in both Australia and New Zealand? .....	7
Where do I get additional information? .....	8

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## What do I need to do to comply with the law?

Importers and manufacturers of air conditioners in NZ are required to:

[Step-1](#) ensure each air conditioner model has been tested to AS/NZS 3823.(1.1:2012 or 1.2:2012 or 1.4:2012 or 3:2002) and meets or exceed the minimum energy performance levels in AS/NZS 3823.2:2013.

[Step-2](#) supply or attach an energy performance label on each model as specified in AS/NZS 3823.2:2013.

[Step-3](#) register each air conditioner model through the energy rating website.

[Step-4](#) provide EECA with unit sales data on an annual basis.

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## Why have MEPS & MEPL for air conditioners?

Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) improve the energy efficiency of air conditioners. Mandatory Energy Performance Labelling (MEPL) enables customers to easily compare models at point of sale and select more efficient models, saving on running costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the air conditioner.

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## Which air conditioners are included?

MEPS covers air conditioners that use the vapour compression cycle and are:

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

Labelling covers air conditioners that are:

- Single phase, and
- Single-split, and
- Are non-ducted.

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## Which air conditioners are excluded?

MEPS and MEPL 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 heat pumps/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, or
- air conditioners that deliver conditioned outdoor air to an indoor conditioned space.

MEPL does not apply to non-ducted, single split, single phase air conditioners that are:

- 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.

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## How are energy levels calculated and what are MEPS requirements for air conditioners?

The MEPS requirements for air conditioners are based on the minimum AEER and ACOP values that the air conditioner must meet.

AEER is the Annual Energy Efficiency Ratio for cooling. It is defined as the ratio of the heating capacity (rated or tested) to the effective power input (rated or tested) for heating and standby power.

ACOP is the Annual Coefficient of Performance for heating. It is defined as the ratio of the cooling capacity (rated or tested) to the effective power input (rated or tested) for cooling and standby power.

The star rating for cooling and heating that appears on the label is calculated from the AEER and ACOP respectively.

## Which standards and regulations apply?

### **For non-ducted air conditioners:**

AS/NZS 3823.1.1:2012: Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Part 1.1: Non-ducted airconditioners and heat pumps—Testing and rating for performance.

AS/NZS 3823.3:2002: Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Calculation of performance for minimum energy performance standard (MEPS) requirements.

### **For ducted air conditioners:**

AS/NZS 3823.1.2:2012: Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Test methods—Ducted airconditioners and air-to-air heat pumps—Testing and rating for performance; or

AS/NZS 3823.3:2002: Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Calculation of performance for minimum energy performance standard (MEPS) requirements.

### **For multi-split air conditioners:**

AS/NZS 3823.1.4:2012 Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Part 1.4: Multiple split-system airconditioners and air-to-air heat pumps—Testing and rating for performance; or

AS/NZS 3823.3:2002 Performance of electrical appliances—Airconditioners and heat pumps—Part 3: Calculation of performance for minimum energy performance standard (MEPS) requirements, applied—

- in accordance with clause 3.4(c) or (d) of AS/NZS 3823.2:2013; and
- (b) despite clause 1.1(ii) of AS/NZS 3823.3:2002; and
- (c) as if clauses 1.5, 1.6.1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.5.2, 2.7.2, and 2.7.3 of AS/NZS 3823.3:2002 included a reference to AS/NZS 3823.1.4:2012; or

### **For variable refrigerant flow (VRF) systems:**

Any VRF system testing standard (as defined in regulation 3) applied in accordance with clause 3.11 of AS/NZS 3823.2:2013.

### **Labelling for all air conditioners:**

AS/NZS 3823.2:2013: Performance of electrical appliances—Air conditioners and heat pumps—Part 2: Energy labelling and minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) requirements.

### **Regulations**

Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002:

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

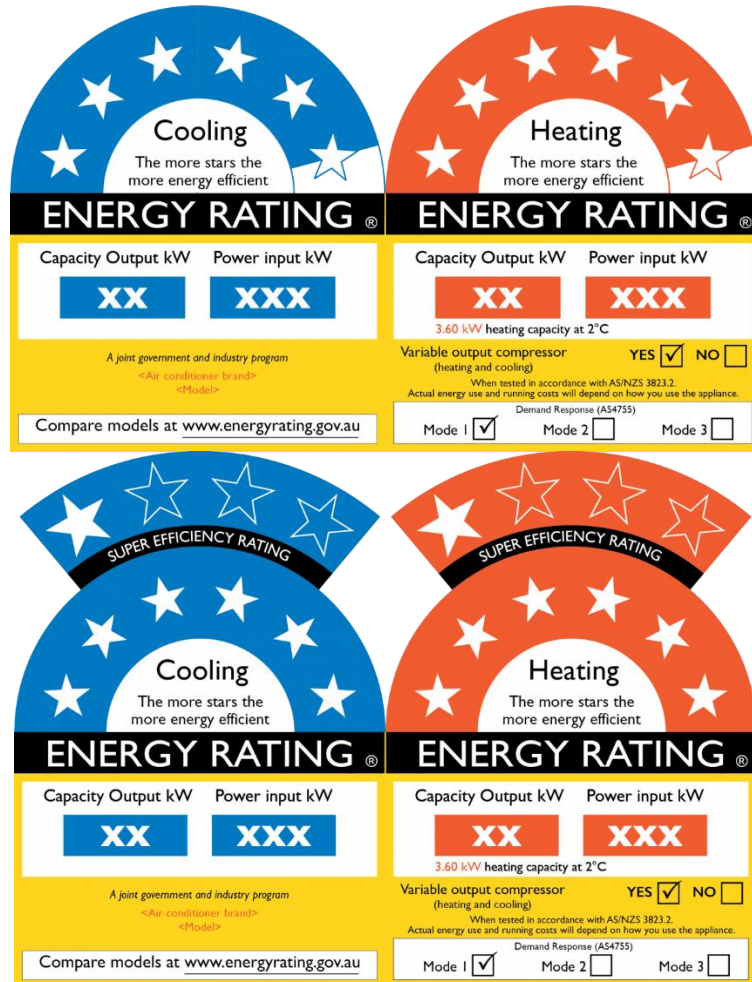
## What are the Labelling requirements for air conditioners?

Note: Each product sold must have a label either attached to the product or in the box the product is sold in.

Air conditioners must be sold with an Energy Rating Label as shown below.

For details on the Energy Rating Label see section 5 of AS/NZS 3823.2:2013. Standards are available for purchase from Standards New Zealand. A template of this label can be downloaded from the Energy Rating website.

The person dealing directly with the consumer must check that air conditioners are registered and display their energy performance label.



## How do you display the energy rating label?

The label must be attached so it is not obscured when the air conditioner is being displayed at point of sale. The label shall be attached to the front of the air conditioner or included in the box if the air conditioners is not on display.

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## How do I register an air conditioner on the Energy Rating website?

If the air conditioner you are about to register is already on the Energy rating website you are not required to reregister it. Air conditioners approved for sale in Australia can be sold in NZ.

To check, search for the model using the Energy Rating database:

[reg.energyrating.gov.au/comparator/product types](http://reg.energyrating.gov.au/comparator/product types)

If it is not already registered, download our quick start guide at:

[www.eeca.govt.nz/resource/online-product-registration-guide](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/resource/online-product-registration-guide)

If you haven't used the [energyrating.gov.au](http://energyrating.gov.au) website before, follow these instructions:

**Step 1** Open the registration accounts page: [reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/register](http://reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/register). Apply for an account (normally processed in 24 hours, but may take up to 5 working days).

**Step 2** Once your account has been created you will receive an email confirming your account has been created and you can log in.

**Step 3** Create an applicant if your organisation has not registered products in the past. If you create an applicant this is normally processed in 24 hours but may take up to 5 working days. If your organisation has registered products in past then the Authorizing Officer must invite you to join the applicant. If this is not possible then you can contact the Energy Rating Team for assistance, using the 'contact us' tab in the E3 system.

**Step 4** Once you are part of an applicant, create a new product registration (you will need a test report that clearly states the Standard the test report meets).

**Step 5** Select 'Air Conditioner (AC)'.

**Step 6** Follow the steps until all fields are completed, and then submit it to the regulator.

**Step 7** After submission, you will be e-mailed a Registration ID. Record this as you will need it to provide sales data each year as required by law. The product is not registered until it has been approved by the Regulator.

If the air conditioner's model and/or brand is different on the test report when compared to what you plan to sell, you are required to upload a declaration from the manufacturer stating that the product being registered is the same as the product in the test report.

To register an air conditioner in NZ, the applicant must be based in NZ with local contact details.

An 'Applicant' is defined as the company or organisation submitting product registration applications to the regulatory authorities.

**Note:** The 'Help' tab in the E3 registration system is full of useful videos and tutorials for registering your products.

**Note:** If you need any assistance during this process, use the 'Contact Us' tab in the E3 registration system or contact EECA: [compliance@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:compliance@eeca.govt.nz)

**Note:** A range of air conditioner models, manufactured in multiple styles, may be registered as a product "family" if the family definition (as follows) is met.

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## What is a family of models?

A range of air conditioners may be registered under a single registration if they:

- are marketed in the same product class or category,
- have identical physical size and component arrangements,
- have identical energy performance characteristics (on which compliance with MEPS and MEPL is assessed),
- rely on, and use the same test report for registration purposes.

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## What information do I need to provide to EECA each year and how do I do it?

Importers and manufacturers are required, by law ([regulations here](#)), to provide statistical information on sales data annually to EECA. This data is provided through our online tool and is kept strictly confidential.

Data needs to be submitted every year by 1 August, for the period 1 April to 31 March of a given year. For example, data from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 must be received by 1 August 2016. The information is submitted through the EECA website (between 1 April and 1 August) where you need to:

- Step 1** Request a user account at: [www.eeca.govt.nz/webform/request-user-account](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/webform/request-user-account). Normally processed in 24 hours but may take up to 5 working days.
- Step 2** Once your account has been set up you will receive an email and can log in at: <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/Security/login>
- Step 3** When logged in, follow the links and instructions for the EECA sales data tool.
- Step 4** Enter your air conditioner data - you will need the products Registration ID number and provide the following information for each registration ID:
- Sales in New Zealand between 1 April and 31 March for the previous year,
  - If you are still selling that particular air conditioner.

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## What if I want to import air conditioners and sell them in both Australia and New Zealand?

This information sheet applies to New Zealand only. If you wish to import and sell air conditioners in both Australia and New Zealand then the product must be registered in Australia. The air conditioner needs to meet the MEPS and MEPL requirements outlined by the Greenhouse Energy Emission Standard (GEMS) Determinations. Information on the GEMS Determinations which can be found here: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2013L01672>



## 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/product-standards](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/product-standards).

There is also information on the energy rating website at [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au).

If you have any questions, please email us at [compliance@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:compliance@eeca.govt.nz), or phone EECA on 0800 358 676.