

# Ballasts for fluorescent lamps

## How to meet energy efficiency regulation requirements

Ballasts for fluorescent lamps sold or hired in New Zealand must, by law, comply with [minimum energy performance standards \(MEPS\)](#) requirements. This document outlines the requirements and how to meet them if you import or manufacture ballasts in New Zealand. ([Linear fluorescent lamps](#) are also subject to MEPS.)

### Why have MEPS for ballasts?

Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) improve the efficiency of ballasts, saving customers on running costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the product.

### Which ballasts are included?

MEPS covers ballasts, supplied either as separate components or as part of a luminaire, that are;

- used with fluorescent lamps from 10 to 70W, and rated for 50 Hz, 230 to 250v, and
- for use with lamp types FD, FSD, or FSS compact 4 tube flat (T, TC-L or TC-F), and
- supplied either as separate components or as part of a luminaire.

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

**Importers and manufacturers of ballasts, are required to:**

- [Step-1](#) Ensure each ballast model has been tested to **AS/NZS 4783.1:2001** and meets or exceeds the minimum energy performance levels specified in, **AS/NZS 4783.2:2002**.
- [Step-2](#) Energy Rating Labelling: **N/A**
- [Step-3](#) Register each ballast model through the energy rating website.
- [Step-4](#) Provide EECA with product sales, import and export data each year.

**Retailers are required to** check their products are registered on the [energy rating website](#).

See the questions and answers below for more information

## Which ballasts are excluded?

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MEPS does not apply to ballasts for fluorescent lamps which are used;

- on DC supplies or batteries,
- for the production of light (radiation) outside the visible spectrum,
- for "Exit" signs within the scope of AS/NZS 2293, or
- for hazardous area lighting equipment within the scope of AS/NZS 2380, AS/NZS 60079 and AS/NZS 61241.

## Which standards apply?

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**AS/NZS 4783.2:2002:** Performance of electrical lighting equipment—Ballasts for fluorescent lamps—Energy labelling and minimum energy performance standards requirements.

**AS/NZS 4783.1:2001:** Performance of electrical lighting equipment—Ballasts for fluorescent lamps—Method of measurement to determine energy consumption and performance of ballasts lamp circuits.

Standards are available for purchase from [Standards New Zealand](#) and for inspection at [EECA's head office](#).

## How are energy levels calculated for ballasts?

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The ballast input power when driving a reference lamp is compared to the input power of a reference ballast driving the same reference lamp.

The corrected ballast input power is then calculated and the ballasts Energy Efficiency Index (EEI) classification is obtained from **AS/NZS 4783.2:2002 table 3**. The ballast is then marked with it's EEI classification.

## How do I register a ballast on the energy rating website?

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If the ballast you are about to register is already registered you are not required to register it. To check, search for the model at:

[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 page: [reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/register](http://reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/register).

**Step 2** Create an account and log in.

**Step 3** Create an applicant, add contact people etc. as required.

**Step 4** Create a new product registration (you will need a test report).

**Step 5** Select 'Ballast (BA)'.

**Step 6** Follow the steps until all fields are complete.

**Step 7** Once submitted you will be e-mailed a Registration ID. Record this as you will need it to provide sales data each year.

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

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Importers and manufacturers are required, by law, to provide statistical information on sales, import and export data annually to EECA.

Data needs to be submitted every year by 1 August, for the period 1 April to 31 March. For example, data from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 must be received by 1 August 2014. The information is submitted through the EECA website where you need to:

**Step 1** Set up a user account at [www.eeca.govt.nz/webform/request-user-account](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/webform/request-user-account).

**Step 2** Once approved, log in at [www.eeca.govt.nz/user/register/supplier/login](http://www.eeca.govt.nz/user/register/supplier/login).

**Step 3** When logged in follow the links and instructions for the EECA sales data return tool.

**Step 4** Enter your product data - you will need your Registration ID number - the following information is required for each registered model:

- Sales in New Zealand between 1 April and 31 March.
- Imports into New Zealand between 1 April and 31 March.
- Exports from New Zealand between 1 April and 31 March.

### **Where do I get additional information?**

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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).

See the [running costs calculator](#) to find out how choosing a higher star rating can reduce the running costs of products.

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**.