

Household Refrigeration



Information Sheet



(Image shown is for illustration purposes only)

Fridges and freezers (fridges/freezers, and household refrigerating appliances) 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 requirements and how to meet them if you import or manufacture domestic fridges or freezers in New Zealand.

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This document is intended as a guide only, please refer to the regulations and applicable standards.

What do I need to do to comply with law?

Importers and manufacturers of fridges and freezers are required to:

[Step-1](#) ensure each fridge/freezer model has been tested to AS/NZS 4474.1:2007 and meets or exceed the minimum energy performance levels in AS/NZS 4474.2:2009.

[Step-2](#) supply or attach the energy performance label on each model as specified in AS/NZS 4474.2:2009.

[Step-3](#) register each fridge/freezer model through the Energy Rating website.

[Step-4](#) provide EECA with product sales data each year.

Why have MEPS & MEPL for fridges and freezers?

Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) improve the efficiency of fridges and freezers, and Mandatory Energy Performance Labelling (MEPL) enables customers to compare and select more efficient models, saving on running costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the product.

Which fridges and freezers are included?

MEPS and MEPL covers:

- fridges, freezers, and fridge-freezers intended for household (or similar) use, or
- fridges, freezers, and fridge-freezers which have a wine storage compartment(s), or
- bar fridges which are sold/marked for household use.

If the product is designed to contain perishable foods (average compartment air temperature is 3°C or less) such as milk or cheese then it is considered to be within the scope of regulation.

Which fridges and freezers are excluded?

MEPS and MEPL do not apply to:

- Products that are designed exclusively for use in caravans, vehicles (e.g. mobile homes, campervans and/or rail cars) or boats and which have a total volume of less than 60 litres, or
- portable products that have a total volume of less than 30 litres (portable product is defined as a product which is moved as part of its operation), or
- products that have a total volume of less than 30 litres where the refrigeration function is secondary (e.g. boiling or cooled water dispensers), or
- products that have no options for connection to a 230 V or 400 V 50 Hz mains electricity supply, or
- products that cool using technologies other than the vapour compression cycle, or
- stand-alone ice-makers, or
- stand-alone wine storage cabinets defined as:
 - A product which has constant temperature over time, or
 - constructed to reduce the transmission of vibration, or
 - has specific humidity characteristics, and
 - **specifically designed exclusively for the storage of wine.**

Which standards and regulations apply?

AS/NZS 4474.1:2007: Performance of household electrical appliances—Refrigerating appliances—Energy consumption and performance.

AS/NZS 4474.2:2009: Performance of household electrical appliances—Refrigerating appliances—Energy labelling and minimum energy performance standard requirements.

Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002:
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2002/0009/1/atest/DLM108730.html#DLM109302>

How are energy levels calculated for fridges and freezers?

The Energy Rating Label shows a star rating and the **Comparative Energy Consumption (CEC)** of the model.

The **Projected Annual Energy Consumption (PAEC)** of a fridge/freezer is calculated using the formula:

$$\text{PAEC} = \text{tested energy consumption} \times 365 / 1000 \text{ (kWh/yr)}$$

Tested energy consumption is expressed in Wh for a 24 hour period.

The CEC in kWh/yr must then be greater than or equal to the PAEC rounded to a whole number. The star rating shown on the energy rating label is then derived from the CEC.

What are MEPS requirements for fridges and freezers?

The MEPS requirements for fridges/freezers is a PAEC of less than or equal to the cut-off level (the CEC cannot exceed the cut-off level).

The cut-off level is determined on the following factors:

- fixed allowance for the appliance group of the product, and
- a variable allowance factor (based on product volume) for the appliance group of the product, and
- adjusted total volume (volume of appliance adjusted for ambient temperature loadings), and
- external door configuration, and
- if it has a through the door ice maker or not, and
- defrost functions (adaptive or not).

What are the MEPL/ERL requirements for fridges and freezers?

Fridges/freezers must be sold with an Energy Rating Label as shown below.

For details on the Energy Rating Label see section 5 of AS/NZS AS/NZS 4474.2:2009. Standards are available for purchase from Standards New Zealand.

The person dealing directly with the consumer must check that fridge/freezers 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 fridge/freezer is being displayed. The label shall be attached to the upper portion of each fridge/freezer in one of the following ways:

- for an upright appliance, on the outside of the door, or
- for an appliance of chest configuration, on the lid.

How do I register a fridge or freezer on the Energy Rating website?

If the fridge/freezer you are about to register is already registered you are not required to register it.

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

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

If you haven't used the energyrating.gov.au website before, follow these instructions:

Step 1 open the registration accounts page: reg.energyrating.gov.au/accounts/register. Apply for an account (normally processed in 24 hours, but may take up to a week).

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 a week. 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 'Household Refrigerator Freezer (RF)'.

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. The product is not registered until it has been approved by the Regulator (normally processed in 24 hours, but may take up to a week).

If the product's model and/or brand is different on the test report when compared to what you sell the product as (model and brand on application), then you will also need 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 in New Zealand the applicant must be based in New Zealand with New Zealand 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

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

What is a family of models?

A range of fridge/freezers may be registered under a single registration if they have the same brand, have identical energy performance characteristics which MEPS and MEPL is assessed on, and rely on the same test report for purposes of registration.

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 confidential.

Data needs to be submitted every year by 1 August, for the period 1 April to 31 March. 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. Normally processed in 24 hours but may take up to a week.

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 product data - you will need the product's Registration ID number - the following information is required for each registration ID (model):

- Sales in New Zealand between 1 April and 31 March for the previous year,
- If you are still selling that particular product.

What if I want to import fridge/freezers and sell them in both Australia and New Zealand?

This information sheet applies to New Zealand only. If you wish to import and sell a fridge/freezer in both Australia and New Zealand then the product must be registered in Australia. The fridge/freezer needs to meet the MEPS and MEPL requirements outlined by the Greenhouse Energy Emission Standard (GEMS) Determinations. Information on the GEMS Determinations can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2019L01066>

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.

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

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