

Switched on

THE LATEST NEWS ON ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

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April 2006

Early Implementation of Stage II Performance Regulations for Room Air Conditioners Complete

In September 2004, major players in the air conditioning industry called on the Australian Government to accelerate tougher energy performance standards on room air conditioners to exclude poor-performing appliances from the market.

Originally the implementation date for the Stage II energy performance standards for room air conditioners was 1 October 2007. However, due to a proposal by the Equipment Energy Efficiency Committee, the Ministerial Council on Energy (MCE) agreed to bring forward the implementation date by 18 months to 1 April 2006.

The new MEPS levels are now operative and all currently registered products listed on www.energyrating.gov.au have been assessed for compliance with the new, more stringent levels.

Photo courtesy of Daikin



Energy Allstars Expansion of Service

Energy Allstars is an expert advisory web service that showcases highly energy efficient products and brands. Since 2005, suppliers of regulated products that meet these high efficiency standards have been invited to list their products on the website: www.energyallstars.gov.au



Now, as an extension to the existing database of energy efficient equipment, suppliers of un-regulated products, such as high efficiency office equipment, are also able to list their products. The Energy Allstars service will soon also list energy efficient lighting systems and technology.

Over the next few months more categories of Energy Allstars products will be added to the website.



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Heritage
Australian Greenhouse Office

Changes to Appliance Energy Labels

Over the next 2 years, the Equipment Energy Efficiency programme is expecting to introduce changes to the energy labels for refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers and air conditioners.

As a result of the increase in the number of highly efficient domestic refrigerators and freezers available on the market, a new star rating algorithm is under discussion. This may result in the previous star rating achieved by a product being decreased by 2 full stars or more. This adjustment to the rating algorithm will spread the product out across the range of star ratings, allowing consumers to more easily distinguish the most highly efficient models on the market, and provide a market edge and incentive for further improvements in product energy efficiency.

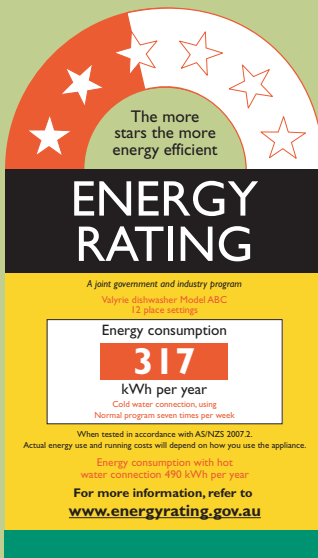
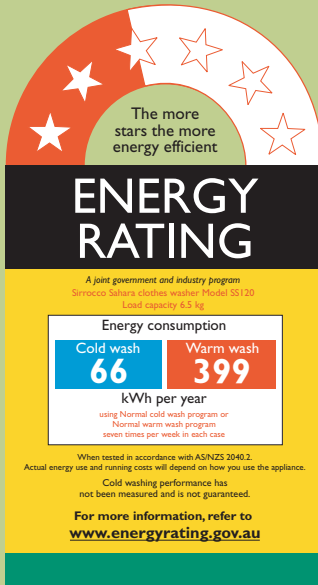
The other important change that will occur for domestic refrigerators and freezers is the introduction of the Energy Star label. This endorsement label is complimentary to the Energy Rating Label. The Energy Star label will provide consumers with a quick identification of the most highly energy efficient units when making a purchase. Currently the Energy Star can be found on office equipment and consumer electronics, and its introduction into the whitegoods sector is just the beginning of a national adoption throughout all energy regulated products.

In December 2005, new editions of the Australia Standards for dishwashers and clothes washers were published. These standards include a number of new requirements including:

- Minimum rinse performance requirement for clothes washers
- Inclusion of standby power into the energy consumption figure noted on the Energy Rating label for clothes washers and dishwashers

From April 2007 all current models of dishwashers and washing machines will have to be re-registered to the 2005 editions of the Australian Standard. Although the energy label design remains identical in the new standard, the energy consumption figure will have any standby power included within it. Suppliers also need to be aware that mandatory water labelling commences on 1 July 2006 for a range of products, including dishwashers and clothes washers. See www.waterrating.gov.au for more details. Energy and water registration for dishwashers and clothes washers is done on a combined registration system.

With the recent introduction of Stage II energy performance criteria for domestic air conditioners, a bunching of products at the high end of the star rating scale is anticipated by 2008. In preparation, a new star rating algorithm was agreed in 2005. The planned transition to the new label and star rating algorithm is through mid 2008, which will affect all current air conditioner models that carry an energy label at that time.



New Energy Efficiency Requirements for home entertainment products

Regulators will soon announce plans to include set-top-boxes and televisions in the range of household appliances subject to energy efficiency standards.

- **Digital Set-Top-Boxes**

From 2010, free-to-air broadcasting is expected to switch from analog to digital. This means that the estimated 14 million analog television sets in Australian households will require a digital set-top-box to access the digital broadcast signal. Alternatively, consumers will need to purchase an integrated digital television as a replacement. Minimum energy performance standards are anticipated to apply to set-top-boxes from late 2007.

- **Televisions**

By the end of 2008 regulators hope to have introduced regulations that will ensure that all imported television sets meet mandatory minimum energy performance standards (MEPS). The Australian Government is working with domestic and international governments and organisations to develop a new energy performance test method for televisions. This will ensure that all screen types are covered by the international standards.

International Workshop on Global CFL Specifications

A workshop on technical specifications for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) will be held in London on 19-20 June 2006. This will coincide with the *Energy Efficiency in Domestic Appliances and Lighting Conference* (EEDAL '06). More than 100 experts from 15 countries will be participating in this unique international initiative to produce a harmonized international testing protocol for CFLs. The workshop will cover:

- the status of the draft protocol and present preliminary results of the comparative testing program taking place to verify the protocol;
- proposals for a discrete set of 'tiers' of performance specifications that can be adopted around the world; and
- information on the latest developments towards international cooperation on CFL compliance activities.

For more information on this workshop or if you're interested in attending please go to: www.apec-esis.org/cfl. Outcomes from this workshop will also be available from this website after the event.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive "Switched ON", or if you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please email the details to: energy.rating@deh.gov.au



Australian Government

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What's New?

Lighting Council Australia have joined forces with the China Association of the Lighting Industry to hold a briefing session on the compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) initiative, during a peak international lighting industry conference, *Light + Building Fair* held in Frankfurt from 23-27 April 06. This is in the lead up to the Energy Efficiency in Domestic Appliances and Lighting (EEDAL) Conference in June 06.

