GAMAA

Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia

GAS Connections

A quantum leap in labelling - E3 Equipment Energy Efficiency

Energy rating labelling on air conditioners has taken a quantum leap forward with the introduction of a new format label, showing how climate affects the energy efficiency of these appliances. The new label is part of a suite of requirements included in the new Determination for air conditioners, signed by the Federal Energy Minister in late March 2019 (see article below).

The new air conditioner label indicates the difference in energy efficiency, depending on which of the three climate zones – hot, average or cold - in which it is used. The climate zone performance information helps consumers to purchase air conditioners best suited for their location. It also enables retailers to promote air conditioners better suited to different regions.

The new label also shows annual energy consumption across air conditioner models in a consistent way. This brings the energy label for air conditioners into line with many of the other energy rating labels, such as those for fridges, washing machines and televisions, which already display an annual consumption figure. Read more here

Air Conditioner Determination Signed

E3 have developed a new MEPS label for under 65kW models.
The Federal Energy Minister signed a new Determination for air conditioners under the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Act 2012* in late March 2019. This follows the agreement of COAG Energy Ministers in December 2018 to further improve regulations on air conditioners. The Determination introduces a new energy rating label for air conditioners and revised Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for portable air conditioners.

The Determination introduces the following changes to the GEMS requirements:

- Adopt the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) standard for rating air conditioner energy efficiency.
- Remove the existing Energy Rating Label and replace it with the new Zoned Energy Rating Label.
- For double duct portable air conditioners, reduce the MEPS and apply the Zoned Energy Rating Label.
- For single duct portable air conditioners, apply MEPS to single duct portable air conditioners and apply the Zoned Energy Rating Label (tested to AS/NZS 3823.1.5).
- Air Conditioners registered under the new Determination will be able to display the new energy rating label.

For the vast majority of air conditioners covered by the Determination, the MEPS will not change. The MEPS levels for double duct portable air conditioners will be lowered to 2.50. Single duct portable air conditioners will be subject to MEPS for the first time, with the MEPS set at the same level as for double duct portable air conditioners. This change will level the playing field between the two products, while removing the least efficient single duct air conditioners from the market.

While the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Air Conditioners up to 65kW) Determination 2019* was registered and published on 1 April 2019, there is a transition period when suppliers can register air conditioners in accordance with the previous 2013 Determination or the new 2019 Determination. From 1 April 2020, suppliers will only be permitted to register air conditioners under 65 kilowatts in accordance with the 2019 Determination. The new format energy labels and SEER ratings will be mandatory for products being registered, imported or manufactured from 1 April 2020.

The 2019 Determination can be found on the Federal Register of Legislation here. A news article on the new Air Conditioner label is available here. A factsheet on how to read the new label is available here.

Check testing GEMS products: July - Dec 2018

New report shows 75 per cent of products comply.
The Check Testing Results – July 2018 to December 2018 report has been published. During this time, check testing was completed on 24 models of GEMS products. Of the models tested, 18 met the relevant GEMS level requirements and energy efficiency claims. Read more here.