

## Gas Water Heaters Factsheet

The information in this document is provided as guidance only. This document has been developed to help registrants of gas water heaters to better understand their responsibilities under the legislative frameworks in Australia and New Zealand. For registrants of products in Australia, this document should be read in conjunction with *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Act 2012* (GEMS Act) and the supporting Regulations and Instruments. For registrants in New Zealand, this document should be read in conjunction with the *Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002*. Changes to legislation may affect the information in this document. Ultimately, persons are responsible for determining their obligations under the law, and for applying the law to their individual circumstances. This document does not constitute legal advice and is not a substitute for independent professional advice.

From **3 May 2013**, all regulated gas water heaters manufactured in or imported into Australia are subject to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). Since 9 June 2011, gas water heaters have been subject to MEPS requirements under the *Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Regulations 2002* in New Zealand.

In Australia, regulatory requirements for gas water heaters are set under the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Gas Water Heaters) Determination 2013 (Determination)*. The Determination specifies what products **are** and **are not** covered, and establishes energy efficiency requirements (GEMS level requirements) by reference to the relevant Australian and Australian/New Zealand Standards set out below.

In New Zealand, MEPS regulatory requirements are outlined in the Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4552.2:2010. Testing requirements are set out in the Australian Standard AS 4552:2005.

### What the regulations cover

The regulation requires that all gas water heaters sold in Australia and New Zealand must comply with MEPS.

Full details of the test method are set out in the following Australian Standard:

*AS 4552-2005—Gas fired water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating*

The MEPS requirements are set out in:

*AS/NZS 4552.2:2010 —Gas fired water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating Part 2: Minimum energy performance standard for gas water heaters*

The current standard is available from the SAI Global website ([www.saiglobal.com](http://www.saiglobal.com)) under license from Standards Australia or from the Standards New Zealand website ([www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz)).

The Determination is available on the Energy Rating website (<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/legislation-for-e3-under-gems/>).

### What gas water heaters are covered?

The water heaters covered by the Determination are appliances that are designed to heat and supply water at a temperature not exceeding 99 degrees Celsius for drinking or sanitary purposes, or both drinking and sanitary purposes. The product classes covered by the Determination are storage water heaters and instantaneous water heaters with the following characteristics:

- are fired with natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas or simulated natural gas; and
- operate using natural draught, or fan assisted, combustion systems.

Please refer to subsection 5 (2) of the Determination for full details of the specified characteristics for covered gas water heaters.

## What product types are not covered?

The Determination does not cover combination appliances. These are appliances that are designed to perform the functions of both a central heating boiler and a water heater, by means of two separate water circuits.

## Testing Requirements

The MEPS testing requirement for gas water heaters must be in accordance with section 2.2 of AS 4552-2005.

## How to register

All covered gas water heaters supplied or offered for supply in Australia, on or after 3 May 2013 must be registered with the Australian GEMS Regulator.

Gas water heaters supplied or offered for supply in New Zealand must be registered with the New Zealand Regulator, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

A test report is not required to be submitted as part of the registration process. However, manufacturers or importers are required to provide a copy of the test report to the Regulator on request. For this reason it is recommended that an electronic copy of the test report be uploaded when making a registration application.

Instructions on the use of the on-line registration system are available at:

[www.energyrating.gov.au/resources/program-publications/?viewPublicationID=2139](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/resources/program-publications/?viewPublicationID=2139)

## Labelling

There are no GEMS labelling requirements for gas water heaters. Gas water heaters on the New Zealand market may voluntarily display the energy rating label administered by the Australian Gas Association (AGA).

## Other Requirements

### *Product performance*

Product performance requirements for covered gas water heaters are set in relation to minimum thermal efficiency. See clause 6.9 of AS 4552-2005 for full details of the requirements, and Appendix B of AS 4552-2005 for the related testing requirements.

## Enforcement

The E3 Compliance Program incorporates a range of compliance activities including the national check-testing program and retail surveillance. Check-testing aims to ensure the compliance of products with energy efficiency regulations and provides the community and other stakeholders with information that demonstrates that the overall efficiency goals of the program are being met and that those suppliers not meeting their responsibilities are identified and sanctioned. Regular check-testing is undertaken on a range of domestic and commercial product types and will include gas water heaters. Retail surveillance will ensure that gas water heaters being offered for sale are registered. Results of previous check-testing and surveillance activity and information on the E3 compliance program are available at:

[www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/compliance/](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/compliance/).

### **For more detailed information go to:**

Submitting an application:

[www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/energy-rating-labelling/submit/](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/energy-rating-labelling/submit/)

On-line registration instructions:

[www.energyrating.gov.au/resources/program-publications/?viewPublicationID=2139](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/resources/program-publications/?viewPublicationID=2139)

The standards are available from SAI Global or Standards New Zealand:

[www.saiglobal.com](http://www.saiglobal.com)  
[www.standards.co.nz](http://www.standards.co.nz)

Purchase IEC Standards:

[www.saiglobal.com](http://www.saiglobal.com)

Determinations:

<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/legislation-for-e3-under-gems/>