

# Computers: Minimum Energy Performance Standards

In Australia, regulatory requirements for computers are set under the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Computer) Determination 2012 (Determination). The Determination specifies what products **are** and **are not** covered, and incorporates requirements for Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), Energy Rating Labels (ERL) and testing from the relevant Australian/New Zealand Standard by reference.

## Implementation Dates

From **1 October 2013**, all computers manufactured in or imported into Australia and New Zealand are subject to Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).

## What the regulations cover

The regulation requires that all computers sold in Australia and New Zealand must comply with MEPS. Full details of the test method and MEPS are set out in the Australia/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 5813.

The test methodology is set out in:

*AS/NZS 5813.1 - Information technology equipment – Energy performance of computers Part 1: Methods of measurement of energy performance.*

The MEPS are set out in:

*AS/NZS 5813.2 – Information technology equipment – Energy performance of computers Part 2: Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for computers.*

The current standards are 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)).

## Testing Requirements

Computers must be tested in accordance with the method of measurement as set out in AS/NZS 5813.1 and the MEPS as specified in AS/NZS 5813.2.

## MEPS

MEPS for computers come into effect **1 October 2013** in Australia and New Zealand. With the exception of small-scale servers, MEPS are assessed against typical energy consumption (TEC) figure, expressed in kWh, calculated using measured power for each operational mode scaled by an annual duty cycle. Small-scale server MEPS are assessed against maximum power limits.

## What computers are covered?

Small-scale servers, desktop, integrated and notebook computers designed to be connected to 230/240v mains voltage either by a direct connection, by a permanently connected external power supply or an external power supply that can be disconnected from the computer.

For a single computer model, with an annual manufacturing quantity of less than or equal to 200 units, it will be exempt from TEC requirements if it uses an 80Plus Silver internal power supply (IPS) or an external power supply (EPS) meeting the requirements of energy performance mark V.

- AS/NZS 5814.1 sets out Method of Measurement for IPS
- AS/NZS 4665.1 sets out Test method and energy performance mark for EPS

This alternative is known as 'deemed-to-comply'. Deemed-to-comply computers still need to comply with all other MEPS requirements.

## Labelling

There are no labeling requirements for computers.

## Exclusions

The regulation does not apply to handheld computing devices such as personal digital assistants (PDAs), palmtop computers and smart phones, games consoles, hand held gaming devices, blade personal computers, slate computers thin client computers, workstations, mobile workstations, category D – high end computers or computer servers that are not small-scale servers. For definitions of exclusions see AS/NZS 5813.2

## How to register

In Australia and New Zealand all computers manufactured in or imported on or after **1 October 2013** must be registered.

More information on registering a computer is available at: [www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/energy-rating-labelling/submit/](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/programs/e3-program/energy-rating-labelling/submit/)

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)

## 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 including computers. Retail surveillance is to ensure that computers being offered for sale are registered in accordance with regulatory requirements. Results of previous check-testing and surveillance activity and information on the E3 compliance program are available at [www.energyrating.gov.au](http://www.energyrating.gov.au).

## Other Requirements

With the exception of small-scale servers, all computers shall be shipped with power management (PM) enabled so

that the default time to sleep after user inactivity is set at 30 minutes or less. PM monitor sleep time for all computers shall be set to 15 minutes or less.

### For more detailed information go to:

National GEMS Legislation - Legal Instruments:

[www.energyrating.gov.au/legislation-for-e3-under-gems](http://www.energyrating.gov.au/legislation-for-e3-under-gems)

On-line registration instructions:

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

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/)

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)

