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Enforcement and Testing Standards – Australian experience
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Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Program

- The E3 program is run cooperatively by Australian Commonwealth, State & Territory governments and the New Zealand Government.
- E3 uses two instruments: mandatory labelling and mandatory MEPS.
- Manufacturers and suppliers must register their products in order to be able to legally sell their products.





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Effective application of MEPS (minimum energy performance standards)

- In Australia, manufacturers and suppliers lodge test reports to demonstrate compliance with MEPS and labelling.
- Is this sufficient for regulators and purchasers to be assured that products comply with MEPS?
- E3 Program has a high profile approach to market monitoring and enforcement.
- Check testing helps ensure a level playing field for suppliers. Suppliers support E3's check testing program.


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Regulatory standards for MEPS and labelling

- MEPS and labelling programs are based on technical standards (IEC, ISO, national standards etc).
- E3's experience – need unambiguous and clear test method and MEPS standards for compliance and enforcement.
- Ambiguities in standards make it very difficult for regulators to take action for non-compliant products.
- Clear and unambiguous standards are important for suppliers who comply with MEPS – level playing field.

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Criteria for selecting which models to test

- History of testing of specific models and market sampling
- The age of models
- Volume of sales
- Record of non-compliance by the supplier
- Third party referrals
- New brands entering the market

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Testing protocol for E3 program

- Stage 1 – test one sample in accredited laboratory
- If product fails Stage 1, then it is subjected to Stage 2 testing
- Stage 2 – three more samples are tested. If these also fail, then the product is deemed to be non-compliant. Product is de-registered and can no longer be legally sold.
- More details in E3 Administrative Guidelines:
<http://www.energyrating.gov.au/pubs/admin-guidelines.pdf>

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What happens if a product fails? – Voluntary reporting (Air conditioning)

- Two major companies, Mitsubishi Electric and Carrier Australia, reported to government that internal quality control identified some air conditioning products not meeting energy labelling claims.
- Retail stock returned to manufacturers for re-engineering.
- Product voluntarily de-registered.
- Existing customers offered cash rebate to compensate for higher running costs.
- Carbon offsets purchased.

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Compensating consumers and environment

	Mitshubishi Electric	Carrier Australia
Number of units sold	6,300	850
Compensation to individual purchasers	Au \$46	Au \$122
Total recompense to purchasers	Au \$289,000	Au \$103,700
Total greenhouse gas emission offsets	2,800 tonnes CO ₂	1,300 tonnes CO ₂



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What happens if a product fails? – Caught by check testing (Refrigerator)

- A refrigerator failed check testing (Stage 1 and Stage 2).
- Product was de-registered.
- Product was re-engineered by manufacturer to meet MEPS.
- Existing customers offered replacement product or Au \$300 rebate to compensate for higher electricity costs.
- Where customers chose the rebate, or customers could not be found, carbon offsets were purchased by supplier.


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Update on electric motor check testing

- MEPS for motors in Australia since 2001. MEPS 2 introduced in April 2006.
- MEPS 2 levels are approximately similar to IE2 in IEC 60034-30.
- E3 regulates 0.73kW up to but not including 185kW. 2, 4, 6 and 8 poles.
- More than 5,000 motor models and more than 60 suppliers registered for MEPS 2.

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Update on electric motor check testing

- In the last two years, about 40 motors have been check tested by E3.
- High rate of compliance with MEPS 2 levels from sampling the market.
- A few issues with unregistered motors, currently developing strategies to deal with this.

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Summary: Why check testing is an essential part of MEPS and labelling regulation

- Check testing is essential to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.
- Some products (including motors) are found to fail compliance tests.
- Financial and publicity consequences of failing a check test has altered manufacturer behaviour.
- Check testing requires adequate and consistent funding.
- Important to publish results to act as a deterrent.

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Further information

■ E3 compliance newsletters available here:
www.energyrating.gov.au/newsletters.html

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