This Australian standard was prepared by Committee EN/2, Energy Labelling of Devices. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 29 September 1982 and published on 8 November 1982.

The following interests were represented on the committee responsible for the preparation of this standard:

Australian Consumers Association

Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers Association

Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations

Australian Gas Association

Australian Institute of Petroleum Limited

Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association

Confederation of Australian Industry

Department of Consumer Affairs, New South Wales

Department of National Development and Energy

Electricity Supply Association of Australia

Electronics Importers Association

Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries

Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association of Australia

Master General Engravers and Nameplate Makers Association

Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia

This standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 81285.

AS 2575—1982
UDC [620.9 + 621.317.385]:621.798.6
Use 621.317.385-777.9:64.0

Australian Standard 2575—1982

ENERGY CONSUMPTION—GUIDE TO THE LABELLING OF PRODUCTS

STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporated by Royal Charter

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

ENERGY CONSUMPTION—GUIDE TO THE LABELLING OF PRODUCTS

AS 2575—1982

First published 1982

PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.

ISBN 0 7262 2734 X

PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Energy Labelling of Devices.

The Australian Mineral and Energy Council (AMEC) through the Department of National Development had asked the Association to undertake work relating to the labelling of energy-consuming products, and this matter was considered at a conference on SAA standards relating to energy conservation which was hosted by SAA in November 1979. The recommendation of the conference was that SAA should undertake the preparation of guidelines for the development of labelling information regarding the energy consumption of energy-consuming products.

SAA technical committees preparing performance standards for energy-consuming products will be required to use this guide, if it is envisaged that energy-labelling requirements are to be included in the standard they are preparing.

During preparation of the standard, various views were expressed by committee members regarding the economic advantages of energy labelling—it was noted that for some product types the costs involved in testing and providing energy labelling would far exceed the advantages to be obtained in reduction of energy consumption during the life of the product. Thus, this standard stresses that technical committees should take such factors into account to ensure that before energy labelling is specified for a product, it will be justified in terms of overall energy savings to the community.

Consideration was also given to whether an energy label could be incorporated into another point-of-sale label, but it was finally decided that the energy label was sufficiently important that it should be a separate label and readily identifiable as an energy label.

While the standard gives the design and format of a label, it does not specify the type of information to be included for a particular product. Each product committee must decide this information from knowledge of the product and its likely method of use, with the main aim of ensuring that the information provided is meaningful to consumers.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

for

ENERGY CONSUMPTION—GUIDE TO THE LABELLING OF PRODUCTS

1 SCOPE. This standard sets out recommendations on the inclusion of energy-labelling information and criteria in Australian standards applying to energy-consuming products.

2 APPLICATION. This standard is intended to give guidance to technical committees which are preparing performance standards for energy-consuming products for which energy labelling would be a worthwhile adjunct to programs for energy conservation and more effective utilization of energy.

3 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUSTIFICATION OF ENERGY LABELLING INFORMATION FOR A PARTICULAR PRODUCT. When the justification for energy labelling of a particular product class is being considered, the following factors should be examined:

(a) The amount of energy consumed by the class of product under consideration, the likely number of products in operation, and whether the number of hours of use per year of each product are such that energy labelling has the potential to result in substantial energy savings and thus be of benefit to the whole community.

(b) Whether the benefits to consumers in reduced operating costs are of sufficient value that they would allow meaningful comparisons to be made between products of a given class and influence their choice of product.

(c) The costs to manufacturers which are likely to be passed on to consumers as a result of the labelling and associated testing requirements.

4 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION. The method of measuring energy consumption for the product shall be specified in the Australian standard for that product. Such method shall be one which relates to in-service use of the product.

5 METHOD OF STATING ENERGY CONSUMPTION. The energy consumption of the product shall be stated in terms of the measurement method specified in the appropriate Australian standard (see Clause 4).

NOTE: The energy consumption should be stated in a manner that assists the consumer to understand its import, such as—

(a) energy consumed in a specified time,

e.g. "When tested in accordance with the standard operational cycle specified in AS . . . ., household freezer 'A' uses *X* kW.h of energy per week";

(b) energy consumed for a specific task,

e.g. "Clothes dryer 'B' uses *Y* kW.h of energy to reduce the moisture content of *Z* kg of clothes from 100 percent to 8 percent".

6 STATEMENT OF RELEVANT PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS. The statement of energy consumption of the product should be made together with a statement of the important performance characteristics of the product, where appropriate. The performance characteristics should be determined in accordance with the relevant Australian standard. (See Clause 8(c).)

7 CONSIDERATION OF AUSTRALIAN OR STATE GOVERNMENT POLICIES. Any relevant Australian or State Government policies regarding conservation of energy should be given consideration.

8 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN SPECIFYING AN ENERGY LABEL FOR A PRODUCT. When the information to be specified on an energy label for a given product class is being considered, the following matters should be taken into consideration:

(a) Energy labelling should achieve the desired objectives and be simple and readily comprehensible to consumers.

(b) The energy label should not lead consumers to make misleading comparisons with similar products of different make or model.

(c) The figures shown should relate to products which fulfil, to a satisfactory level, the function for which they are designed.

NOTE: Some products may use less energy simply because they operate to a lower performance specification. For example, dishwasher A may use 40 percent less energy than dishwasher B because it heats water to a lower temperature and has a much shorter washing time; however, its performance in washing and drying dishes may be inferior to that of dishwasher B.

9 FORM OF LABELLING. The form of label shall be as shown in Appendix A, Fig. A1.

NOTE: The format of energy labels will depend to a large extent on the nature of the product and the nature of the important performance characteristics which have to be included to make the statement on energy consumption meaningful (see Clause 6).

An example of a fictitious energy label for electric storage water heaters is given in Fig. A2.