



Renewable Heat Incentive: Ecodesign of Energy-related Products Directive

Ecodesign of Energy-related Products Directive

The Ecodesign of Energy-related Products Directive (2009/125/EC), or 'ErP', was published in November 2009 and Regulation 813/2013 came into force for heat pumps on 26 September 2015.

ErP aims to reduce adverse environmental impacts throughout the life-cycle of a product and drive improvements to efficiency, while establishing a level playing field for businesses across Europe.

The Energy Labelling Directive (2010/30/EU) introduces new efficiency labels – a product label and a package label.

The product label will be produced by the heat pump manufacturer, and based upon test data produced using the standard methodology established by ErP. This label will show the efficiency of the heat pump at either 35 or 55 degrees (see figure 1).

The package label will be produced by the dealer selling the package or the heat pump installer. This will take into consideration all the elements of the heating system to display the efficiency of the whole system (see figure 2).

Figure 1: An example of a product label.

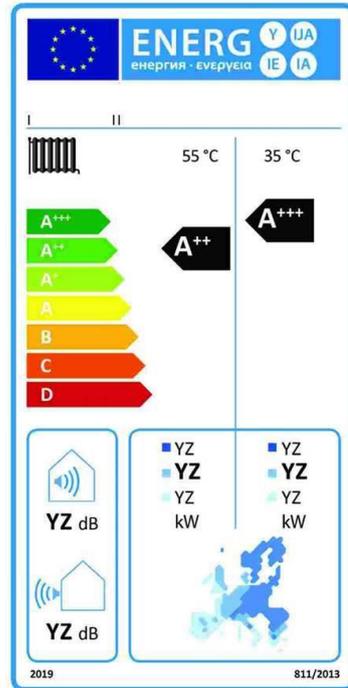
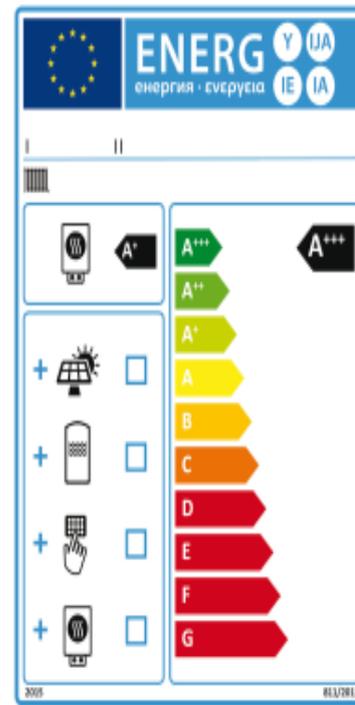


Figure 2: An example of a package label.



Changes to MCS Standards

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) sets industry standards for microgeneration products used to produce electricity and heat from renewable sources.

MCS certification is a requirement for accreditation to the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. It is also required for accreditation to the Non-Domestic RHI for installations of MCS certified technologies that have a capacity of 45kWh or less.

In May 2015 MCS published updated Installation Standards for solar thermal (MIS 3001 V4.2), solid biomass (MIS 3004 V4.2) and heat pumps (MIS 3005 V4.3). MCS also published a new Seasonal Co-efficient of Performance (SCOP) calculator (MCS 026).

The changes to the Installation Standard for heat pumps and the introduction of the SCOP calculator are as a result of the introduction of ErP.

The Installation Standard for heat pumps has been updated to align with the changes that have been made to the Product Standard for heat pumps (MCS 007 V4.1) to reflect the introduction of ErP. This includes additional testing of heat pumps to establish a more accurate efficiency level.

The introduction of the SCOP calculator will enable Certification Bodies to use a standard methodology based on the requirements of the ErP to establish whether a heat pump is ErP compliant, and to determine the Seasonal Performance Factor (SPF) that will be used for the purposes of RHI.

The SCOP calculator will replace the Heat Emitter Guide (HEG) for calculating heat pump efficiency. Unlike the HEG, the SCOP calculator will provide product specific SCOPs that take into account differences in performance between heat pumps. SCOP

data will be published on the MCS website, and will be used by installers to calculate the SPF of the complete installed system. SCOP data will also enable consumers to compare the efficiency of heat pumps.

Impact on the RHI

Consumers should be aware that a heat pump that has not demonstrated ErP compliance by 25 March 2016 will not be eligible for the RHI if it is commissioned after this date. Domestic consumers should check the Ofgem Product Eligibility List for more details on heat pump eligibility.

From 26 March 2016 consumers installing a heat pump who wish to claim RHI should ensure their chosen heat pump is ErP compliant. This will be demonstrated by the provision of a valid product label. Domestic consumers will continue to have twelve months from the commissioning date of a heating system to apply for the RHI.

The updates to RHI Regulations came into force on 26 September 2015. For the following six months installers have been able to install heat pumps that entered the market prior to 26 September 2015 using either the new or old MCS Installation Standard for the purposes of the RHI. To calculate the heat pump SPF installers have been able to use either the HEG or the SCOP calculator. This period ends on 25 March 2016. After this date all MCS certified heat pumps must be installed using the latest Installation Standard for heat pumps (MIS 3005 V4.3) and the SCOP calculator (MCS 026).

All heat pumps placed on the market on or after 26 September 2015 must be sold with a product label, and the installer should produce a package label once the product is installed.