

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates Hearing – February 2010
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Topic: Appliance Rating and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards

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Question: (Senator Birmingham)

Have the 10-star appliance rating system and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards promised by Rudd Labor at the 2007 election been established?

Answer:

10-Star Appliance Rating System

10-star ratings are being developed as new products are introduced, or as revisions are made to existing labelling requirements for appliances already covered by the energy rating label.

To date, standards for household refrigerators/freezers, televisions and air-conditioners allow for super-efficient products to carry an energy label with up to 10 stars.

The 10-star rating system has been mandatory for televisions since 1 October 2009 and will become mandatory for refrigerators/freezers as well as air conditioners from 1 April 2010.

Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards

In October 2008, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to develop a National Strategy on Energy Efficiency, to accelerate energy efficiency efforts, to streamline roles and responsibilities across all levels of government, and to help households and businesses prepare for the introduction of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

In July 2009, the COAG signed the National Partnership Agreement on Energy Efficiency, which formally adopted the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency. Measure 2.2.2 of the Strategy is to establish national legislation for Minimum Energy Performance Standards and labelling, and over time move to add Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards.

The Department is presently consulting on various design features of the national legislation. On 20 January 2010, a Consultation Regulation Impact Statement was released for the national legislation and a series of public information sessions were held between 10 and 19 February 2010 in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

Submissions to the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement are presently being received by the Department from industry, non-government organisations and the community. These submissions will be addressed in the decision RIS.