



Building newsflash

Installation and sale ban of inefficient air-conditioners from 1 September 2009

Purpose

To advise that from 1 September 2009 (previously 1 July for installation) air-conditioners which do not have a minimum tested average Energy Efficiency Ratio (EER) of 2.9 or higher will not be allowed to be installed in classes 1 and 2 buildings. A Queensland-wide sales ban is proposed to also take effect from 1 September 2009.

Background

Preventing the sale and installation of inefficient air-conditioners was first proposed on 15 June 2008, when the *Improving sustainable housing in Queensland* discussion paper was released by the Queensland Government for a three-month consultation period. Consultation concluded on 12 September 2008, with the air-conditioning measure receiving the highest level of community support (95 per cent) of all of the 11 proposed measures, as well as strong support from energy providers and housing industry stakeholder organisations.

The discussion paper policy outcomes were announced in December 2008 ([Newsflash 344](#)), and included an installation ban on inefficient air-conditioners from 1 July 2009. The installation ban will be regulated through the [Queensland Development Code \(QDC\) Mandatory Part \(MP\) 4.1 – Sustainable Buildings](#) and the sales ban will be regulated through the Electrical Regulation 2006.

Legislative change

Installation ban

Following further industry consultation on the new legislation, an additional two months lead-in time has been provided for the commencement of the installation ban to provide manufacturers, installers and retailers a further opportunity to sell or redistribute stock that does not meet the tested average 2.9 EER standard.

New or replacement air-conditioners installed (via plug or hard wired) in houses, townhouses (class 1 buildings) and units (class 2 buildings) in Queensland must have a minimum tested average EER of 2.9 under the QDC from 1 September 2009.

Sales ban

It is proposed to amend the Electrical Regulation 2006 to ban the sale of air-conditioners (new or second hand) irrespective of the building they are to be installed in, which do not meet a minimum tested average EER of 2.9. Generally, in practice implementing a sales ban will mean that air-conditioners installed in all buildings will meet the new higher EER level. However, investigations will be undertaken on expanding the application of the installation ban to include other classes of buildings such as commercial buildings so that the sales and installation bans are complementary.

The sale and installation bans will still apply to single phase (i.e. 240 volt systems most commonly used in properties to operate appliances and small motors) air-conditioners and three-phase (i.e. 400 volt systems typically used to efficiently run larger electric motors and appliances) air-conditioners up to 65 kW in output capacity which are required to have a tested average EER under the relevant Australian Standards. This includes split systems, ducted systems and window units. Air-conditioning systems which are above 65kw are not captured by the new standard and are regulated by the Building Code of Australia.



Air-conditioning systems that had their EER values tested using an older Australian Standard (such as the 2001 or 2003 version) would still comply with the new QDC requirements, provided the tested average EER is at least 2.9. For example, a system that was first manufactured in 2004 and was tested under the old 2003 version of the Australian Standard to have a tested average EER of 2.93 will be able to continue to be installed in Queensland homes after 1 September 2009.

The amended [QDC MP 4.1—Sustainable buildings](#) is now available online at www.dip.qld.gov.au

Air-conditioner fact sheet and guideline

An air-conditioner fact sheet, made available online earlier this year ([Newsflash 368](#)), has been updated in line with these changes. This fact sheet is intended to outline further details about compliance and provide answers to some frequently asked questions.

A guideline is also being finalised to assist industry and homeowners in understanding the new air-conditioner requirements. This guidance will provide further detail on how to achieve compliance with the regulations, as well as outlining additional measures which can reduce reliance on air-conditioners to cool our homes and it will be added in the near future to the [QDC MP 4.1—Sustainable buildings](#) which is currently available online at www.dip.qld.gov.au

Contact for further information

Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Building Codes Queensland

tel +61 7 3239 6369

buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Newsflash is provided by the State of Queensland in good faith. The material is general in nature and before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The State of Queensland cannot accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense you might incur as a result of the use of or reliance on information contained in this Newsflash. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as the ultimate and/or complete source of information.