

Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

www.ofgem.gov.uk/drhi

Version 2.0 March 2016

Domestic



Factsheet: The Energy-related Products Directive and the Domestic RHI

Overview

The Ecodesign of Energy-related Products Directive (ErP) and The Energy Labelling Directive came into force for Space Heaters and Combination Heaters, including heat pumps, on 26 September 2015.

ErP sets a minimum performance criteria and provides a standard methodology for comparing the efficiency of heat pumps, and The Energy Labelling Directive introduces a product label and a package label (see fig 1+ 2). This allows consumers and installers to identify the best performing heat pumps and make decisions based upon this.

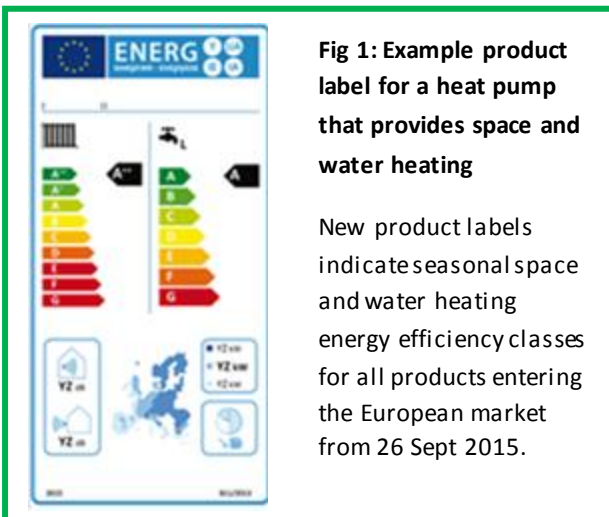


Fig 1: Example product label for a heat pump that provides space and water heating

New product labels indicate seasonal space and water heating energy efficiency classes for all products entering the European market from 26 Sept 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.

New Labels

The product label (fig 1) is produced by the heat pump manufacturer, and based on test data produced using the standard methodology established by ErP. This data must be entered into a product 'fiche', and provided to distributors or installers for all products produced or imported into the EU from 26 September 2015.

If a distributor or installer wishes to test a specific product themselves in line with the ErP methodology, they may do so and complete their own fiche.

After 25 March 2016 all systems seeking MCS certification – and therefore eligibility for the RHI – must use equipment that is ErP compliant.

Manufacturers/suppliers must have data available for use by a distributor or installer. Any non-ErP compliant heat pumps that are commissioned after 25 March 2016 – regardless of the date that they were placed on the market – will not be eligible for MCS certification or the RHI, and it's important that this is made clear to customers.

Installers will be able to check whether or not a heat pump is ErP compliant on the MCS website or the Ofgem Product Eligibility List (PEL): www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/domestic-renewable-heat-incentive-product-eligibility-list-pel.

The package label (fig 2) is produced by the distributor selling the package or the heat pump installer. This only needs to be produced when installing a package that contains a heat pump combined with a solar collector, hot water storage tank or temperature controls. This takes into consideration all the elements of the heating system to display the efficiency of the whole system, and must be supplied to customers.

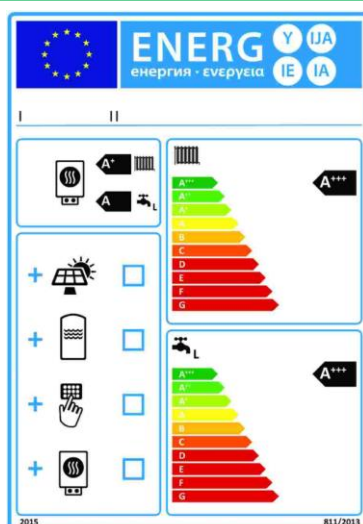


Fig 2: Example package label for a heat pump that provides space and water heating.

In order to produce a package label, a distributor or installer must complete a package 'fiche' using efficiency data relating to all installed products.

The installer may be able to obtain support in producing a package label/fiche from manufacturers and suppliers/distributors. Alternatively it's possible to enter information from the fiche into the Europa (EU) ErP label generator to produce the package label.

The label generator tool can be found here: <http://eepf-energylabelgenerator.eu/eepf-labels/label-type/space-heaters>

Seasonal Co-efficient of Performance

In order to align with ErP, MCS have produced a new Seasonal Co-efficient of Performance (SCOP) calculator aligned with the new standard methodology.

The SCOP calculator replaces the Heat Emitter Guide (HEG) for the purposes of calculating SPF's for the RHI.

Unlike the HEG, which has an assumed SPF for the heat pump, the SCOP Calculator produces a calculated SCOP that is product and selected heating flow temperature specific. This enables consumers and installers to compare the efficiency of heat pumps.

Any heat pump commissioned after 25 March 2016 must be ErP compliant, achieving a minimum SPF of 2.5 using the SCOP calculator in order to gain MCS certification (a key eligibility requirement for the RHI).

FAQs

1. Do these requirements affect installations already accredited on the Domestic RHI?

No, the ErP requirements will not be applied retrospectively. Any products installed and commissioned before 26 March 2016 do not need to comply with ErP, unless they were placed on the market on or after 26 September 2015. There will be a transition period to allow older products to move through the market, but from 26 March 2016, all products commissioned must be compliant with the new requirements.

2. What does 'placed on the market' mean?

For the purposes of ErP, 'placed on the market' means the date at which the manufacturer or importer of a product supplies it to a distributor or end user within the Union market (ie the EU). This applies to the date that each individual unit of a product is first supplied to a distributor or end user.

3. How are the labels produced? Will they require a specialist printer?

Installers may be able to obtain support in producing a package label/fiche from manufacturers and suppliers/distributors. Alternatively it is possible to enter information from the fiche into the Europa (EU) ErP label generator to produce the package label. The label generator tool can be found here: <http://eepf-energylabelgenerator.eu/eepf-labels/label-type/space-heaters>.

Once produced, the label can be printed on a standard printer, and must then be attached to the product itself. If packaged, the label could be fixed to the manual if impractical to fix to the individual appliances.

4. What is a 'fiche'?

A fiche is a condensed form with information contained on it. Templates for package fiches are included in Annex 3 of the Energy Labelling Directive and can be found here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32013R0811>.

These templates should be completed using information from the 'product fiches' supplied with the components of the system and will form the basis for the package label.

5. Do these requirements apply to biomass installations for RHI?

Biomass boilers are not affected by the requirements that came into force 26 September 2015. However, there are future plans for biomass to be brought into scope of ErP.

Ecodesign has a number of Lots which bring different technologies into scope. Lot 15 will bring solid fuel boilers (including biomass) up to 500kW into scope of ErP. The status of this Lot can be checked here:

www.eceee.org/ecodesign/products/solid_fuel_small_combustion_installations

Find out more

For further information on the ErP and its impact on the RHI, please see DECC's policy document:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/rhi-introduction-of-the-ecodesign-of-energy-related-products-directive

For more information on the SCOP, see the MCS heat pump reference material:

www.microgenerationcertification.org/mcs-standards/reference-materials/heat-pump-reference-materials