

ESS Reference Table

1 July 2026

The *Energy Savings Scheme (Amendment No.1) Rule 2026* (ESS Rule) commences on 1 July 2026. Detailed changes are set out in the table below.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits (HEER) Method		
Minimum payment changes made for HEER air conditioner activities (D16). - New table in clause 9.8.1(f) to set out minimum payment requirements based on activity – Table 1 – Purchaser payments for Implementations under clause 9.8.1(f). - Scaled minimum payment introduced for air conditioning activity D16 based on air conditioner type and cooling capacity – Table 1 - Deleted reference to \$200 minimum payment for Activity D16 – Clause 9.8.1(f)(i)	Table 1 sets out all minimum payments for HEER activities including the scaled minimum payment to be applied to D16 air conditioner activities. Minimum payments Increased minimum payments for all residential and small business implementations: - air conditioners that are not multi-split or ducted systems increased to \$500 - for multi-split and ducted air conditioner systems: - up to 15kW cooling capacity – \$1000 - with more than 15kW and less than 20kW cooling capacity – \$2000 - with at least 20kW and above – \$3000 Payments are rounded down to the nearest whole kW. No change to HEER activity minimum payment requirements other than air conditioners.	Update your internal systems, templates and processes to collect correct minimum payments for different equipment types. Start providing the updated HEER Fact Sheet which includes a link to our Upgrade costs webpage to customers now.
Certificate creation caps added for Energy Saving Certificate (ESC) creation for multi-split air conditioner systems based on Climate Zones – Clause 9.8.7	The number of ESCs that can be created from a multi-split air conditioner implementation for activity D16 is capped at: 90 ESCs in Cold Climate Zones 70 ESCs in Average or Hot Climate Zones. The size of the system installed is not restricted but ESCs cannot be registered beyond the caps. Caps are based on multi-split air conditioning implementations at residential or small businesses for the whole site. Related definitions were clarified and new definitions added.	Make sure you don't create certificates for multi-split air conditioners above the cap. When registering ESCs, make sure the electricity savings entered in your implementation data will not generate a quantity of ESCs above the relevant cap for multi-split air conditioners. Log a technical support case in TESSA if you have issues with certificate registration or make an Enquiry.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
Eligible air conditioning product classes changed to remove low efficiency air conditioner product classes and add multi-split systems – Activity Definition D16 and Table D16.2	Eligible product classes now include: - product classes 5 to 12 - product classes 18 to 21 (multi-split)	Update your internal systems and processes to make sure only eligible products are offered to consumers.
Activity Definition D16 – Equipment Requirement 5 added	Model numbers for new or replacement air conditioners in product classes 5–12 to match model numbers recorded in the GEMS Registry.	Review the equipment requirements and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you meet requirements and can provide related evidence.
Activity Definition D16 – Equipment Requirement 6 added	For multi-split systems: - only the outdoor unit part of the GEMS registered model number is required to match the model number of the outdoor unit installed - the manufacturer brand must be the same for indoor & outdoor equipment, and - the unit must be a manufacturer-approved combination.	Review the equipment requirements and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you meet requirements and can provide related evidence.
Activity Definition D16 – Implementation Requirement 2 updated	New and replacement equipment must be designed and installed in accordance with AS/NZS 5141: 2018 (as updated from time to time) to help make sure units are appropriately designed, sized and installed in homes and small businesses.	Review the implementation requirement and standard to make sure the system is designed and installed in accordance with the standard. Update your internal systems and processes to make sure you meet the requirements and can provide related evidence.
Activity Energy Saving for D16 updated as follows: - definitions of cooling and heating capacity in Equation D16.2 and Equation D16.4 updated to include definitions for product classes 5–12 and 8–21 respectively Tables D16.2 and D16.3 AEER and Baseline ACOP for new and replacement air conditioners combined into Table D16.2 to present data by product class and align with GEMS Tables D16.4 and D16.5 – Minimum TCSPF/HSPF and AEER/ACOP requirements combined into Table D16.4 to present data by product class and align with GEMS Tables D16.3 and D16.5 deleted	Heating and cooling capacity in Equations D16.2 and D16.4 defined for product classes 5–12 and 18–21 (multi-split systems) respectively. AEER and ACOP data is provided by product class and combined into one table for new and replacement air conditioners. Minimum TCSPF/HSPF and AEER/ACOP data is combined and presented by product class. Values in the new Table D16.4 may vary slightly from values in the original Tables D16.4 and D16.5.	Carefully review updated Activity Definition D16 to understand the changes. Update your internal systems, software, templates and processes to correctly calculate ESCs based on the updated GEMS values and definitions in equations at the time of your implementation. Retain appropriate evidence that these new requirements are met.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
New definitions added for clarity and to give effect to updated air conditioner requirements – Clause 10 Added: • Air Conditioner • Cooling Capacity • Ducted • Heating Capacity • Multi-split system • Single-split system.	New simple and clear definitions for air conditioners and their associated values added to Clause 10. Definitions are based on the technical definitions laid out in Part 1, Section 4 of the <i>Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Air Conditioners up to 65kW) Determination 2019 (GEMS Determination)</i> . The GEMS standard and associated values may be updated from time to time in line with Clause 10.4A.1 of the ESS Rule.	Understand the new definitions and update your templates and processes to apply the different definitions, product types, classes and values listed in the GEMS Determination. Make sure the definitions and values used for calculations are in the GEMS standard at the time of your implementation.
Updated BCA Climate Zone URL – Table A26	Updated to appropriate link.	Check your internal references are updated and you understand which climate zone to use for your activity.
HEER Fact Sheet and HEER Heat Pump Fact Sheet updated	The fact sheets have been updated with a link to our Upgrade costs webpage.	Start providing the updated HEER Fact Sheet and HEER Heat Pump Fact Sheet to customers now.
Installation of High Efficiency Appliances for Business (IHEAB) method		
Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
Minimum payment changes across IHEAB air conditioner activities under clause 9.9.1(e) • New table inserted to make payment requirements clearer for activities F1.1, F1.2, F4, F16, F17 implementations – Clause 9.9.1(e) – Table 2 – Purchaser payments for Implementations	Introduced minimum payments for Activity F4: • \$1,000 for air conditioner implementations (that are not multi-split or ducted systems), and • \$3,000 payments for multi-split or ducted implementations with 30kW cooling capacity or more. All other minimum payments are unchanged.	Update your internal systems, templates and processes to collect correct co-payments for different equipment types. Start providing the updated IHEAB Heat Pump Fact Sheet which includes a link to our Upgrade costs webpage to customers now.
Minor change to Clause 9.9.5 to clarify that the minimum payment is per implementation	The minimum payment is applied per implementation, not per item of end user equipment installed as part of an implementation.	Update your internal systems, processes and calculations to collect minimum payments on a per implementation basis.
New definition added for Large Business Site – Clause 10	Defines Large Business Site, which is a term used in Activity Definition F4 – Install a high efficiency air conditioner or replace an existing air conditioner with a high efficiency air conditioner.	Review the ESS Rule to understand the definition of Large Business Site and update your business processes to use the new definition correctly.
Updated references to latest energy efficiency legislation – Activity Definitions F1.1 and F1.2 – Equipment Requirements	Updates the legislative reference to the <i>Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Refrigerated Cabinets) Determination from 2020 to 2024</i> and the <i>New Zealand Energy Efficiency (Energy Using Products) Amendment Regulations from 2024 to 2025</i> .	Keep track of changes to various standards, Acts or Instruments that are relevant to your activities.
Lifetimes increased for liquid chilling packages from 10 to 12 years – Activity Definition F2 – Table F2.2	Increases the lifetime and incentive for F2 chiller implementations. This will increase ESCs available under these activities.	Review Table F2.2 for the new lifetime and update your internal systems and calculations to reflect the increased lifetime.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
Removed references to outdated standard – Activity Definition F2	References to the AS/NZS 4776 standard for the total rated cooling capacity (kW _R) and Integrated Part Load Value (IPLV) values were removed. Refer to the GEMS Determination (as updated from time to time).	Update your internal systems and calculations to reflect the changes to kW _R and IPLV values.
Table F2.1 in Activity Definition F2 updated to require IPLV values from the table be used only where there is no IPLV data in the GEMS register	Table F2.1 provides an alternative for calculating IPLV values if there is no data recorded in the GEMS Registry.	Update your internal systems and calculations to reflect the changes.
Updated Activity Definition F4 – Eligibility Requirement 1 to set a minimum cooling capacity	New or replacement air conditioners must have a minimum 30 kW cooling capacity to be eligible under this method.	Review Eligibility Requirement 1 for and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you can evidence that the air conditioner meets the minimum cooling capacity.
Updated Activity Definition F4 – Eligibility Requirement 2 to tighten the eligibility of the site	Requires that the site is a "Large Business Site" unless the activity is the replacement of an existing air conditioner in a centralised system or common areas of a BCA Class 2 building.	Review Eligibility Requirement 2 and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you can evidence that the site meets the eligibility requirements
Updated Activity Definition F4 – Equipment Requirement 1 to add requirements and allow for air conditioners with cooling capacity above 65kW to be eligible.	Air conditioner units with cooling capacity above 65kW must be registered under the <i>GEMS (Air Conditioners >65kW) Determination 2022</i> in the ESS. No change to equipment requirements for air conditioners with cooling capacity below 65 kW.	Review Equipment Requirement 1 to understand which GEMS determination must be used for air conditioners with cooling capacities above and below 65 kW.
Defined eligible product classes to remove low efficiency air conditioner product classes and add multi-split systems.	Eligible product classes include: - product classes 5-12 - product classes 18-21 - product classes 24-25, and - product classes 27	Update your internal systems and processes to make sure only eligible products are offered to consumers.
Added Activity Definition F4 – Equipment Requirement 5	Requires that model numbers for new or replacement air conditioners in product classes 5-12 and 24-25 must match the model numbers recorded in the GEMS Registry.	Review Equipment Requirement 5 and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you meet requirements and can provide related evidence.
Added Activity Definition F4 – Equipment Requirement 6	Requires that for multi-split systems, product classes 18-21 and 27: - the outdoor unit part of the GEMS registered model number is required to match the model number of the outdoor unit being installed. - the manufacturer brand must be the same for indoor and outdoor equipment, and - the unit must be a manufacturer approved combination.	Review Equipment Requirement 6 and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you meet requirements and can provide related evidence.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
Equipment Energy Savings for F4 were updated as follows: - the definitions of cooling and heating capacity in Equations F4.2 and F4.3 were updated for product classes 5-12 and 24-25 and 18-21 and 27 respectively Tables F4.2 and F4.3 AEER and Baseline ACOP for new and replacement air conditioners respectively were combined into Table F4.2 to present data by product class and bring data in line with GEMS Tables F4.4 and F4.5 – Minimum TCSPF/HSPF and AEER/ACOP requirement were combined into Table F4.4 to present data by product class and bring data in line with GEMS Tables F4.3 and F4.5 were deleted	Heating and cooling capacity in Equations F4.2 and F4.3 were defined for product classes 5-12 and 24-25 and 18-21 and 27 (multi-split systems) respectively. AEER and ACOP data is provided by product class and is now combined into one table for new and replacement air conditioners. Minimum TCSPF/HSPF and AEER/ACOP data is now combined and presented by product class. Values in the new Table D16.4 may differ slightly from values in the original tables.	Carefully review the updated Activity Definition F4 to understand the changes. Update your internal systems, software, templates and processes to correctly calculate your ESCs based on the updated GEMS values and definitions in the equations. Make sure you use the correct definitions to calculate cooling/heating annual energy use at the time of your implementation. Retain appropriate evidence that these new requirements are met.
Confidence Factor update – Activity Definition F16 & F17 – Equipment Energy savings	The Confidence Factor for activity definitions F16 and F17 for heat pump water heaters is changing for products with an Individual Heat Pump Thermal Capacity of 10kW or more. Change takes effect on 31 December 2026.	Review the equipment energy savings equations and equation definitions and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you calculate equipment savings correctly.
Discontinued method – Sales of New Appliances (SONA)		
Removed references related to discontinued SONA method for multiple clauses: Clauses 5.10 – end date for SONA activities 6.8 (g) (ii) – removed requirement to supply Appliance Retailer for SONA implementation data 9.1 (a) (removed reference to clause 9.3 – SONA), 9.2A.1, – removed reference to SONA method clause 10 (deleted Appliance Retailer definition), 11.14. transitional provision related to SONA Schedule B – Activity Definitions B2 to B7 – SONA activities	Removed references throughout the ESS Rule related to the SONA method that ended on 30 November 2025. As the SONA method ended, these references are no longer required.	Nothing.
Fuel switching projects – Metered Baseline Method (MBM) and Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification (PIAM&V)		
Table A28 was removed and replaced with a requirement to use National Greenhouse Accounts (NGA) Factors and defined in Clause 10. Other emissions factors may be used subject to Scheme Administrator approval. Clause 5.4(j) was also updated so activities don't result in a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions.	The NGA factors (or other sources approved by the Scheme Administrator) must be used to calculate greenhouse gas emissions from fuel switching projects.	Update your processes to use NGA factors in your calculations. Or you can make an application to the Scheme Administrator for other factors you wish to use by making an Enquiry. You will need to provide evidence and justify why your selected factors are appropriate to use.

Change	Details and impact	What you need to do
All methods and activities – changes start on commencement		
Clarify equipment disposal – Clause 5.3A	This change aligns with the clause 5.3 of the PDRS Rule. The change makes it clearer that replaced equipment cannot be refurbished, reused or resold, by the Accredited Certificate Provider (ACP) or anyone else.	Update your business processes for removal, disposal and recycling of old equipment to comply with requirements. You must maintain evidence to support the safe and appropriate disposal of old equipment.
Updated definition for Exempt Energy Program (EEP) to clarify that the programs are exempt from specified clauses of the ESS Rule – Clause 10	Clarifies that the programs are exempt from specified clauses of the rule	No action needed. Further details will be released on how these EEP programs will operate. Stay up to date with notices published by IPART and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
Transitional arrangements		
Added new clause to clarify energy savings calculated for implementations before the ESS Rule change are subject to the previous version of the ESS Rule and general transitional arrangements – Clause 11.24	Implementations before 1 July 2026 must use <i>Energy Savings Scheme (Amendment No.1) Rule 2025</i> to calculate certificates.	Use the previous version of the ESS Rule to calculate ESCs for implementations before 1 July 2026. Use the latest ESS Rule to calculate ESCs for implementations on or after 1 July 2026.

Calculation methods – acronyms

HEER – Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits, IHEAB – Installation of High Efficiency Appliances for Business, MBM – Metered Baseline Method, PIAM&V – Project Impact Assessment with Measurement and Verification, SONA – Sale of New Appliances,