

ESS Reference Table

September 2026

The *Energy Savings Scheme (Amendment No. 2) Rule 2026* commences on **7 September 2026**. Detailed changes are set out in the table below.

Change	Details and impact	What ACPs need to do
All methods and activities		
Added requirements for Exempt Energy Programs (EEP) – clause 6.13	The new clause provides for Ministerial approval of an initiative as an EEP, including imposing, varying and revoking any conditions of approval, and revoking approval. Definition in Clause 10.1 updated to reference the new clause	No action needed. Stay up to date with notices published by IPART and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on how EEP programs will operate.
Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits (HEER) Method		
Minimum payment changes across HEER activities: - Removed Table 1 and added new clauses to set out minimum payment requirements – clauses 9.8.1(f)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) - Aligned minimum payments for air conditioner activities (D16) with Product Classes in the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Registry – clause 9.8.1(f)(ii) - Clarified the minimum payments for manifolded water heaters – clause 9.8.1(f)(iii)	Clause 9.8.1(f)(ii) sets out the minimum payment to be applied to D16 air conditioner activities: - air conditioner from Product Classes 5, 8, 9 or 10 in the GEMS Registry – \$500 - air conditioner from Product Classes 6, 7, 11, 12, 18 or 19 in the GEMS Registry – \$1000 - air conditioner from Product Classes 20 or 21 in the GEMS Registry: - up to 15kW cooling capacity – \$1000 - more than 15kW and less than 20kW cooling capacity – \$2000 - at least 20kW cooling capacity – \$3000 Cooling capacity is defined in Equation D16.2 in the Activity Definition D16, rounded down to the nearest whole kW. The minimum payments apply on a per air conditioner basis (not across a site). Clause 9.8.1(f)(iii) clarifies that water heaters manifolded together are counted as one system for minimum payments. All other minimum payments remain unchanged. Refer to the Upgrade costs page for further details.	Update your internal systems, templates and processes to collect correct minimum payments for different equipment types. Provide the HEER Fact Sheet (which includes a link to our updated Upgrade costs webpage) to customers

Change	Details and impact	What ACPs need to do
Installation of High Efficiency Appliances for Business (IHEAB) method		
Minimum payment changes for IHEAB air conditioner activity F4: - Removed Table 2 and added new clauses to set out minimum payment requirements – clauses 9.9.1(e)(i), (ii) and (iii) - Minimum payments for air conditioner activities (F4) now based on Product Classes in the GEMS Registry – clause 9.9.1(e)(ii)	Clause 9.9.1(e)(ii) sets out the minimum payment to be applied to F4 air conditioner activities: - air conditioner from Product Classes 5-12, or 24-25 in the GEMS Registry – \$1000 - air conditioner from Product Classes 20, 21 or 27 in the GEMS Register – \$3000 The minimum payments apply on a per air conditioner basis (not across a site). All other minimum payments remain unchanged. Refer to Upgrade costs page for further details.	Update your internal systems, templates and processes to collect correct minimum payments for air conditioners.
Updated Activity Definition F4 – Eligibility Requirement 1 to remove the minimum requirement of 30kW cooling capacity	Air conditioners with less than 30kW that are not multi-split systems are now eligible under F4. <i>Note: a new clause allows energy savings from F4 implementations from 1 July to 6 September 2026 to be calculated using the previous or new version of the Rule – see details below.</i>	Review Eligibility Requirement 1 and update your internal systems and processes to meet eligibility requirements and hold appropriate evidence.
Inserted a new Activity Definition F4 – Eligibility Requirement 2 to specify the eligibility of multi-split systems based on Product Classes in the GEMS Registry and the cooling capacity	New or replacement multi-split systems from Product Classes 20, 21 or 27 in the GEMS Registry must have cooling capacity of at least 30kW to be eligible. Cooling capacity is defined in Equation F4.2 for this activity.	Review the new Eligibility Requirement 2 for and update your internal systems and processes to make sure you can evidence that the new or replacement multi-split system meets the minimum cooling capacity requirement.
Revised Activity Definition F4 – Equipment Requirements and Equipment Energy savings to align with the new Eligibility Requirement 2	References to Product classes 18 and 19 in the GEMS Registry removed from the following to align with the new Eligibility Requirement 2: - Equipment Requirements 1 and 6 - Notes below Equations F4.2 and F4.3 - Tables F4.2 and F4.4	Update your internal systems and processes to make sure only eligible products are offered to consumers
Transitional arrangements		
Added new clause to allow energy savings from F4 air conditioner activities implemented from 1 July to 6 September 2026 to be calculated using the previous or new version of the Rule – clause 11.25	Energy savings for F4 implementations with an Implementation Date from 1 July to 6 September 2026 (inclusive) can be calculated using either <i>Energy Savings Scheme (Amendment No.1) Rule 2026</i> or <i>Energy Savings Scheme (Amendment No.2) Rule 2026</i>	Use the previous or new version of the ESS Rule to calculate ESCs for implementations from 1 July to 6 September 2026 under Activity Definition F4. Use the new ESS Rule to calculate ESCs for F4 implementations with an Implementation Date on or after 7 September 2026.

Acronyms

EEP – Exempt Energy Programs, GEMS – Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards, HEER – Home Energy Efficiency Retrofits, IHEAB – Installation of High Efficiency Appliances for Business