
The Hong Kong Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for

Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters

July 2010

Energy Efficiency  **EMSD**

Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong
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CONTENTS

Section	Title	Page
1.	PURPOSE	1
2.	BACKGROUND.....	1
3.	SCOPE	2
4.	DEFINITIONS.....	2
5.	TECHNICAL STANDARDS.....	4
6.	ENERGY LABEL.....	6
7.	TESTING FACILITIES, LABORATORIES AND ACCREDITATION BODIES	7
8.	REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION	7
9.	LEGAL PROVISIONS.....	9
10.	COMPLIANCE MONITORING AND INSPECTION	10
11.	COMPLAINTS AND APPEAL	11
12.	MAINTENANCE OF SCHEME.....	12
13.	FUTURE DEVELOPMENT	12

Annexes

1	Energy Label Format
2	Proforma Letter of Invitation
3	Proforma Letter of Application
4	Information to be Submitted to Energy Efficiency Office
5	Proforma Letter of Acceptance of Application
6	Proforma Letter of Rejection
7	Flow Chart for Registration

Tables

1	National Standards
2	Methodology for Efficiency Measurement

1. Purpose

This set of document is intended to give a general description on the introduction of the Hong Kong Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) is an energy conservation initiative that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) has adopted. Under the scheme, certain common types of electrical appliances and office equipment will incorporate an energy label that serves to inform consumers of the product's energy consumption and efficiency. Consumers should then be able to take those factors into account and make their purchasing decision.
- 2.2 The concept of EELS has been developed and implemented in several forms and in different stages of development. In some countries, it is a compulsory requirement for certain kinds of appliances to be provided with energy labels before they can be put on the market. The labelling requirements may apply to equipment such as household refrigerators / freezers, washing machines, room coolers, clothes dryers, compact fluorescent lamps, electric storage water heaters, etc. The EELS generally aims to achieve the following:
- greater public awareness of energy conservation and environmental improvement needs;
 - provision of readily available, pre-purchase information on energy consumption and efficiency data, where applicable, to enable ordinary consumers to select more energy efficient products;
 - stimulation to the manufacturers/market for phasing out less energy efficient models; and
 - actual energy savings and environment improvement.
- 2.3 Hong Kong also aims at achieving the above objectives. The Hong Kong Voluntary EELS now covers ten types of household appliances and seven types of office equipment. There is also one type of gas appliance for domestic gas instantaneous water heaters. The scope of EELS has also been extended to cover petrol passenger cars.

3. Scope

- 3.1 The scheme will only apply to the manufacturers and importers who have participated in the voluntary scheme.
- 3.2 The scheme commenced from 23 December 2004 and energy labels will expire on 31 December 2013 when re-registration is necessary.
- 3.3 The scope of application covers all new registered appliances imported to or manufactured in Hong Kong and existing models available in the market with effect from the date that is declared by the participants but does not cover second-hand products, products already in existing use, under trans-shipment or manufactured for export, etc.
- 3.4 The scheme will operate as a 'Recognition Type' labelling system. All participating appliances will be registered under this scheme provided that they have met the performance requirement specified in the scheme.
- 3.5 Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters under this labelling scheme include domestic instantaneous water heaters which burns gas types defined in the Gas Safety Ordinance. Those domestic gas appliances having heat inputs exceeding 70kW are excluded.

4. Definitions

Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions shall apply throughout this document:-

<i>Authority</i>	means the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR).
<i>Director</i>	means the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services.
<i>Domestic Gas Appliance</i>	means a gas appliance which is designed, or intended to be used primarily in domestic premises, irrespective of whether it is so used (regulation 2 of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations Cap. 51C).
<i>EN standard</i>	means standards for gas appliance design, construction and safety performance issued by European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

<i>Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heater</i>	means gas appliance where the heating of water is directly dependent on the draw off. The appliance should have mechanism capable of the opening-closing of the gas passage relating to water supply, and of exclusive use for supplying water to be heated during passing of water through heat exchange.
<i>GB standard</i>	means standards for gas appliance design, construction and safety performance issued by State Administration of the PRC for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ).
<i>Government</i>	means the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.
<i>IEC</i>	means the International Electrotechnical Commission.
<i>inspecting officer</i>	means the officer authorized by the Director to carry out inspection on appliances under this scheme.
<i>ISO</i>	means the International Organization for Standardization
<i>JIA standard</i>	means standards for gas appliance design, construction and safety performance issued by Japan Gas Appliances Inspection Association (JIA).
<i>label</i>	means the energy label as described in Section 7.
<i>model</i>	means the commercial description of the make, type, and if available and appropriate, variant and version of a domestic gas instantaneous water heater.
<i>participants</i>	means the manufacturers, importers or the dealers of domestic gas instantaneous water heaters participating in the scheme.
<i>recognized laboratory</i>	means a laboratory that complies with the requirements as stated in Section 7 and is acceptable to the Authority for carrying out tests and issuing test reports for domestic gas instantaneous water heaters.
<i>Recognized Certification Authority (RCA)</i>	means an independent organization recognized by the Gas Authority which is empowered under law or decree, (e.g. notified body appointed by the Commission of European Communities), to certify that the a gas appliance is designed and produced in compliance with international or national safety standards.
<i>scheme</i>	means the Hong Kong Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters.

5. Technical Standards

Energy Efficiency Measurement

- 5.1 The domestic gas instantaneous water heater shall be tested in accordance with recognised international or national standards (for example EN, JIA, or GB standards). The current normative references of these standards for measuring the efficiency of the domestic gas instantaneous water heaters are depicted in table 1.

Table 1: National Standards

National Standard	Normative references
EN	EN 26: Gas-fired instantaneous water heaters for sanitary uses production, fitted with atmospheric burners
GB	GB 6932: Domestic gas instantaneous water heater
JIA	JIA F 031: Inspection Standard for Gas Water Heaters for Hong Kong

- 5.2 The EN, GB and JIA standards are the national standards applicable to the products currently available in Hong Kong. The Authority will consider other international or national standards, where appropriate, for products to qualify for the Scheme.
- 5.3 The test is normally conducted in the Initial Type Approval (TA1) as required by the Gas Authority. Test results obtained in the Initial Type Approval (TA2) will also be considered.

Energy Efficiency Index for Qualifying Products

- 5.4 The measurement of energy efficiency in accordance with different national standards can be broadly divided into two methodologies as shown in Table 2, namely based on net calorific values and gross calorific values of gas.

Table 2: Methodology for Efficiency Measurement

National Standard	Methodology
EN	Net (or nominal) calorific value of gas
GB	
JIA	Gross (or overall) calorific value of gas

- 5.5 To set the criteria for qualifying products, the Energy Efficiency Index (η_e) of an appliance is defined as the ratio of the efficiency of the appliance measured to the reference efficiency figure based on net or gross calorific values. The index is expressed in percentages and calculated as follows:-

$$\text{Energy Efficiency Index } (\eta_e) = (\eta_r / \eta_m) \times 100\%$$

where η_m = efficiency of the appliance measured in accordance with respective national standard

η_r = reference efficiency figure (75% and 82% for methodology based on gross and net calorific value of gas respectively)

- 5.6 The maximum allowable value of Energy Efficiency Index is 100%. Those products meeting the requirement shall qualify for this scheme.

Safety Requirements

- 5.7 The products are needed to comply with the Gas Safety Ordinance of the HKSAR.

6. Energy Label

General

- 6.1 Energy labels are classified into the following two types:
- (a) Verification label; and
 - (b) Information label.
- 6.2 A verification label indicates the appliance meets the energy performance standards as required by the scheme. It is a compulsory requirement for participant to affix this label to his registered appliances.
- 6.3 An information label contains information to guide the general public to contact the Authority regarding enquires about the scheme. The affixation of this label to registered appliances is optional.

Label Location

- 6.4 The energy label should be self-adhesive and affixed to the appliance at a prominent location. The participant should ensure that the verification label appears on every registered appliance on display or sale and the information on the label shall be legible.

Colour Scheme and Dimensions

- 6.5 The labels as shown in Annex 1 should be printed on white-coloured self-adhesive sheet material or other decent material. It should be printed in English and in Chinese. The participant should obtain soft copies of the labels for printing from Energy Efficiency Office, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department to ensure the colour schemes and dimensions are correct.

Material Quality

- 6.6 The material used for the energy label should be durable and possess good wear and tear characteristics. It should stick tightly on the appliance.

7. Testing Facilities, Laboratories and Accreditation Bodies

- 7.1 The Authority will accept the results and certificates issued by the test laboratory which is a Recognized Certification Authority (RCA) accepted by the Gas Authority.

8. Registration and Participation

Registration Procedures

- 8.1 All manufacturers and importers are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the scheme. For some known manufacturers and importers, invitation letters will be issued to them. However, any party may submit their applications for registration no matter whether they are invited or not.
- 8.2 The proforma letter of invitation is shown in Annex 2.
- 8.3 Applicant should submit formal application to

*Chief Engineer / Energy Efficiency A
Energy Efficiency Office
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon
Hong Kong*

by means of an application letter through mail, facsimile or electronic mail. In order to ensure effective implementation of the scheme, the applicant must be committed to fully comply with the duties, responsibilities and obligations set out in this scheme. The proforma letter of application as shown in Annex 3 details the aforesaid obligations and should be used for application. To facilitate the application process, the application form can be downloaded from EMSD website.

Information/Documents to be Submitted for Registration

- 8.4 Each make and model of an appliance participating in the scheme should be provided with a test report issued by a recognized laboratory. The test report should contain power consumption test and performance test results. The details of the technical information to be submitted together with the application are listed as follows:
- (a) Information on the company
Name, Address, Telephone number, Fax, e-mail address, Contact person, Importer, Distributor, etc.
 - (b) Products to apply for participating in the scheme

- Names of products, types, brand names, model references, countries of origin
- (c) Parties which will be responsible for making and fixing the Energy Label
 - (d) Commencement date to affix energy label on appliance
Year _____, Month _____
 - (e) Documentary proof that the appliance(s) comply with the Gas Safety Ordinance of the HKSAR
 - (f) Detailed test reports shall provide at least the relevant technical data of efficiency for the appliance.

8.5 Company's name and chop should be stamped on all the documents provided. All photocopy test reports submitted to the Authority shall be certified true copy by appropriate organization.

Acceptance of Registration

8.6 On receipt of the application, the Authority will verify whether the appliance meets the energy efficiency and performance requirements based on the submitted data. The accuracy of the submitted data, their inconsistencies and non-compliance will be dealt with in accordance with Section 10.

8.7 If the application is accepted, the participant will be notified of the result within 17 working days upon receipt of all necessary information requested. The participant will then be allowed to affix the energy label onto the 'registered' appliance. Both manufacturer and importer of the registered appliance should ensure that the energy label is correctly printed and affixed on the appliance in accordance with Section 5. The proforma letter of acceptance is shown in Annex 5.

8.8 If the application is rejected, the notification letter as shown in Annex 6 will also be given within 17 working days upon receipt of all necessary information requested.

8.9 The flow chart for registration is shown in Annex 7.

Participant's Duties, Responsibilities and Obligations

8.10 The participant is obliged to:

- (a) submit application and information including test results in accordance with format and procedures set out in Section 8.3– 8.5;
- (b) conduct tests via recognized laboratories and to comply with the specified test methodology and classification scheme;
- (c) produce and affix labels at his own costs;
- (d) fully inform other sales agents in his distribution network once the particular make and model of an appliance is registered under this scheme;
- (e) allow random/ad-hoc inspection to be conducted by persons authorized by the Authority on registered appliance at his premises;

- (f) conduct re-test(s) at his own costs at some recognized laboratories, if non-compliance is found on his appliance. The result of re-test(s) shall reach the Authority within the prescribed period of time specified by the Authority;
- (g) inform the Authority of any change in the technical information and data that were previously submitted to the Authority together with the application letter;
- (h) accept the fact that if appliance fails to perform in accordance with the requirements as given in Section 5 and this cannot be readily rectified, the Authority may order it be de-registered from the scheme; and
- (i) remove all energy labels from appliances which had been de-registered immediately.

8.11 The details of appliances registered under this scheme will be kept in a register maintained by the Authority. The registration records will be regularly uploaded and maintained in the EMSD internet for public and interested parties for access and information.

Termination

8.12 Under circumstances of poor performance such as:

- (a) (repeated) failure to fulfil obligations set out under Section 8.10; or
- (b) in any other case where the Director is of the opinion that registration of an appliance is contrary to the public interest

the Authority may de-register an appliance from the scheme with immediate effect by giving the participant notice in writing. Once an appliance is de-registered, no one is allowed to fix an energy label on it. However, participant will normally be given a grace period of three months to remove all labels from the de-registered appliances.

De-registration may occur even when there is no legal action taken under either the Trade Descriptions Ordinance or the Copyright Ordinance.

8.13 Participant who decides to discontinue participating in the scheme or to withdraw any registered model from the registered appliance list shall give at least three months' advance notice to the Authority.

9. Legal Provisions

9.1 This scheme is a voluntary scheme. However, a participant who abuses the scheme by giving false information on a label may contravene provisions of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance.

9.2 No one could take advantage of the scheme by using the label on his appliances without authorization of the Authority as that may constitute an infringement of copyright under the Copyright Ordinance.

10. Compliance Monitoring and Inspection

Purpose

- 10.1 To uphold credibility of the scheme and to maintain continuous confidence of the consumers, compliance check on energy labels on those appliances participating in the scheme are needed. Also to avoid the unsatisfactory situation that the non-participating parties taking advantage of the scheme by using unauthorized labels, the Authority may also carry out suitable form of inspection on those unregistered appliances which have not been registered under the scheme.

Scope

- 10.2 The scope of inspection includes sample checking and testing the following items:
- (a) whether the energy label is positioned as required in clause 6.2;
 - (b) whether the energy label being displayed is of correct format in accordance with Section 6;
 - (c) whether the data submitted by the participants are correct by random re-testing; and
 - (d) whether unregistered appliances display unauthorized energy label.
- 10.3 The participants will be requested to take immediate remedial action and report the follow-up action taken if non-compliance is found on their appliances.
- 10.4 If a registered appliance is found not meeting the requirements specified in accordance with the technical standards stipulated in Section 5 during random testing, the Authority may request the participant to conduct separate performance tests at his own costs, in accordance with the test methodology as stated in Section 5 in one of the test laboratories agreed by the Authority. If non-compliance is confirmed and no remedial action is to be taken by the applicant, the Authority may order it be de-registered from the scheme. Failure to remove energy labels from the de-registered appliances after the Director has withheld his authorization for using such labels may contravene the relevant ordinances.

Inspecting Officers

- 10.5 The Authority will authorize inspecting officers to carry out appliance compliance monitoring and inspection. The officers will carry proper identification cards which will be produced during their inspection operations. However, the officers will not inform the participants in advance of their intended inspection operation.
- 10.6 It is the participants' duty to allow the inspecting officers to gain access to their premises to carry out inspection.

Mode of Inspection

- 10.7 Inspections will be carried out on registered appliances under the scheme on random basis. Based on the record of the registration, random inspection programmes will be developed.
- 10.8 In addition to the random inspections, the inspecting officers will carry out ad-hoc inspections in response to complaints. The items to be inspected in such a case will depend upon the nature of complaint and may include all types of inspection as stated in Section 10.2.
- 10.9 Inspections will normally be carried out at the retail outlets and appliance showrooms. Where necessary, inspection will also be done at warehouses.
- 10.10 The inspection results will be properly recorded for future analysis as well as on evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme.

11. Complaints and Appeal

- 11.1 The Authority will be responsible for dealing with complaints from participants and other parties against matters related to the scheme.

Complaints Handling Procedure

- 11.2 The Director shall ensure that complaints are properly recorded and handled without undue delay.
- 11.3 The Authority shall carry out preliminary investigation on complaints and reply to the complainants within a reasonable time. For complaints that require site inspection and laboratory test, the complainant shall be notified through an interim reply.
- 11.4 The Authority shall inform the complainant of the results or decisions made on the complaint.

Appeal Procedure

- 11.5 A participant who is aggrieved by a decision or action taken by the Authority may appeal to the Director in writing stating the reason for the appeal.
- 11.6 The Director may decide to suspend the decision or action given by the Authority from the day on which the appeal is made until such appeal is disposed of, withdrawn or abandoned unless such suspension would, in the opinion of the Director, be contrary to public interest.

- 11.7 The Director may by notice to the appellant require that appellant to attend meeting with him or his representatives and provide documents and give evidence relevant to the appeal.
- 11.8 The Director shall notify the appellant of his decision and reasons for it. The decision will be final and binding.

12. Maintenance of Scheme

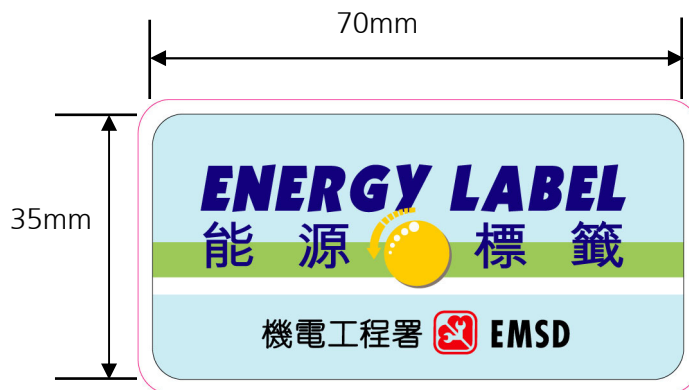
- 12.1 To ensure that the scheme can continue to operate effectively and efficiently after its introduction, a proper system of maintenance is needed.
- 12.2 The maintenance system consists essentially of:
- (a) Continuous updating of the lists of participants in the scheme as follows:
 - i) registered appliances with details such as registration number in the scheme, date of registration or de-registration if it occurs, energy efficiency data, performance data, make, model and other related information; and
 - ii) registered importers, manufacturers, local agents etc. in the distribution network with details such as address, date of registration or de-registration if it occurs, etc.
 - (b) Periodic review of the test methodology, and procedures for application registration and compliance monitoring, etc., to bring them in line with the latest needs of the manufacturers, importers and retailers, etc.
 - (c) Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of the scheme and assessment of what changes are necessary.

13. Future Development

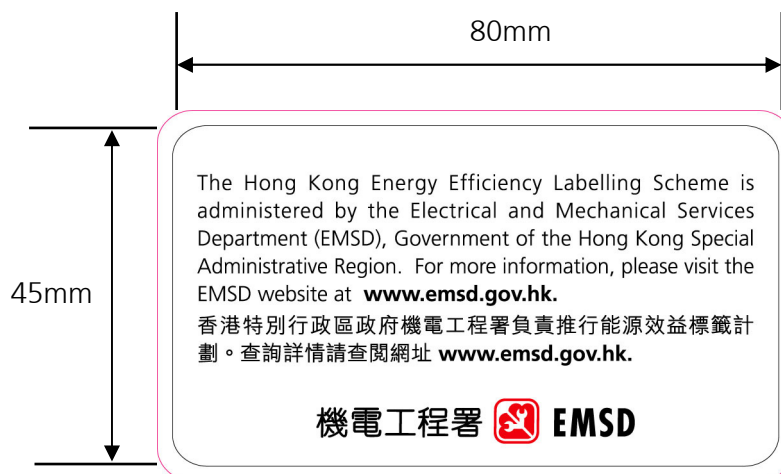
- 13.1 It is hoped that following implementation, the market will phase out appliances of low efficiency and public awareness of using energy efficient products and energy conservation will be improved.
- 13.2 To further facilitate the public in choosing energy efficient appliances and raise public awareness on energy saving, the Government has introduced a mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (EELS) through the Energy Efficiency (Labelling of Products) Ordinance.

13.3 Under the mandatory EELS, energy labels are required to be shown on prescribed products for supply in Hong Kong to inform consumers of their energy efficiency performance. Five types of prescribed products covered in the mandatory EELS are room air conditioners, refrigerating appliances, compact fluorescent lamps, washing machines and dehumidifiers.

Energy Label Format



Verification Label



Information Label

The suggested sizes of the labels are 70x35mm and 80x45mm as shown. The participants may use other proportional sizes to suit the design of their products. Soft copies of these labels can be obtained from Energy Efficiency Office, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (email: eepublic@emsd.gov.hk).

Proforma Letter of Invitation

Our ref. EEO/LB/26

Your ref.

Tel.

Fax.

Date

[Name and Address of
Manufacturers/Importers]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Invitation of Application for Registration to Participate in Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters

Having gone through the necessary consultations and duly considered the views from various concerned parties, the government has decided to introduce a voluntary energy efficiency labelling scheme for domestic gas instantaneous water heaters to Hong Kong with effect from (_____). The details of the scheme ❶ have been finalized and I enclose herewith a guide of the scheme for your reference.

Being one of the major domestic gas instantaneous water heater manufacturers / importers / ❷ in Hong Kong, you are invited to participate in the scheme so as to take part in promoting public awareness in energy conservation and environmental improvement to Hong Kong. If you are interested to participate in the scheme, please apply in accordance with the proforma letter of application (Annex 3) and submit details including technical information in accordance with the attached Annex 4 to the 'Chief Engineer / Energy Efficiency A' at the following address.

Energy Efficiency Office
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon
Hong Kong

Please be reminded to submit accurate test data to support your application. Under this Scheme, routine compliance monitoring and checking will be performed and if a registered water heater is found to be non-compliant, we may consider deregistering the water heater from the Scheme.

Should you need further clarification or information, you are most welcome to contact the undersigned or Mr. _____, at the telephone number _____.

Yours faithfully,

for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

(Note : ❶ 'scheme' means 'The Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters '

❷ delete as appropriate)

Proforma Letter of Application

Your ref. EEO/LB/26

Our ref.

Tel.

Date

Chief Engineer/Energy Efficiency A
Electrical & Mechanical Services Department
3 Kai Shing Street, Kowloon
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application for Registration to Participate in Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters

Our company is the (manufacturer/importer*) of _____ in Hong Kong. We support the introduction of the labelling scheme to Hong Kong and would like to be one of the participants in the scheme to promote energy efficiency.

I understand fully the obligations and duties stated in the scheme and will comply with all relevant requirements, in particular those specified below:

- i) conduct tests via recognized laboratories and to comply with the specified test standards;
- ii) produce and affix specified labels at my own costs;
- iii) allow random/ad-hoc inspection to be conducted by persons authorized by the issuing Authority on registered appliance at my premises;
- iv) conduct re-test(s) at my own costs at some recognized laboratories, if the results of inspection suggest inaccurate energy label information being displayed. The result of re-test(s) shall reach the Authority within the prescribed period time specified by the Authority;
- v) inform the Authority of any change in the technical information and data that were previously submitted to the Authority together with the application letter; and
- vi) accept the fact that if appliance fails to perform in accordance with the required energy efficiency standards and performance as given in Section 5 and this cannot be readily rectified, the Authority may order it be de-registered from the scheme.

The details of information of those appliances which we intend to register with the Authority are shown in the attached document (Annex 4) and are submitted herewith for your vetting.

Yours faithfully,

(Manufacturer/Importer's Name and Company Chop)

* _____
delete as appropriate

Information to be Submitted to Energy Efficiency Office

1. Information on the company:
Name, Address, Telephone number, Fax, e-mail address, Contact person, Importer, Distributor, etc.

2. Product to apply for participating in the scheme:
Name of products, types, make, model references, countries of origin

3. Parties which will be responsible for making and fixing the Energy Label

4. Commencement date to affix Energy Labels on appliance
Year _____, Month _____

5. Detailed test reports providing at least the relevant technical data of efficiency for the appliances.

6. Documentary proof that the appliance(s) comply with the Gas Safety Ordinance of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

*Note: Company's name and chop should be stamped on the all documents provided.
All test reports submitted to the office should be certified true copy by appropriate organization.*

Proforma Letter of Acceptance

Your ref.
Our ref. EEO/LB/26

Tel:
Fax:

Date

[
Manufacturers/Importers

]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Acceptance of Application for Registration to Participate in Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters

With reference to your letter of ref. _____ dated _____, I am pleased to inform you that your application to participate in the captioned scheme has been accepted.

I enclose herewith the registration certificates of domestic gas instantaneous water heaters registered. The registered domestic gas instantaneous water heaters are as follows :

<u>Brand/Make/Model</u>	<u>Registration No.</u>	<u>Effective date</u>
()	()	()

You are allowed to affix a specified energy label onto each and every appliance registered under the scheme. The contents of the energy label should be based on the information that you have provided in your application ref. _____ and dated _____.

Should you have any queries regarding the scheme, please contact this office.

Yours faithfully,

for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Proforma Letter of Rejection

Your ref.
Our ref. EEO/LB/26

Tel.
Fax.

Date

[
Manufacturers/Importers

]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rejection of Application for Registration to Participate in Voluntary Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme for Domestic Gas Instantaneous Water Heaters

With reference to your letter of application ref. _____ dated _____, I regret to inform you that your application for registration to participate in the scheme has not been accepted for the following reasons:-

1. _____ etc.

You are most welcome to submit new application again in future, when you have the necessary documents / information to support your application.

Yours faithfully,

for Director of Electrical & Mechanical Services

Flow Chart for Registration

