



INFORMATION SHEET

ENVIRONMENT

NAT MAT 11-20

Changes to the Small Scale Technology Certificates for Solar Hot Water Systems (Nat)

From 1 November 2011 the Office of the Renewable Energy regulator (ORER) will adopt *AS/NZS 4234: 2008 Heated water systems - Calculation of energy consumption*, which sets out a change in the testing of energy efficiency for solar hot water heaters and heat pumps.

The adoption of this standard will coincide with a change to now refer to Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) as Small-Scale Technology Certificates (STCs).

The new standard will change the quantity of STCs issued to individual solar hot water products.

Solar water heaters and heat pumps modelled under the old methodology will receive current STC entitlements until 31 October 2011. Eligibility for STCs is based on the installation date of the solar hot water heater – that is the first day the product is capable of producing hot water.

The changes adopt new standards for energy performance, emphasising true solar efficiency rather than tank capacity when calculating the STCs of each system. All manufacturers and have had to retest their products against the new standard to verify their new STC credits.

From 1 November 2011, solar water heaters and heat pumps will have revised STC quantities shown on their labelling or technical information, reflecting the energy performance of the system under the new standards.

Although some systems may receive an increase in the number of STCs they are eligible for, it is most likely that traditional gas continuous boosted solar water heaters will receive less STCs than before.

Therefore it is important builders and plumbers contact the manufacturer or supplier of the product to determine whether any additional solar panels or other changes are required to achieve the same number of STCs previously allowed for the product.

For further information HIA members can contact HIA's Building Services staff on 1300 650 620 or hia_technical@hia.com.au.

DISCLAIMER - The above is intended to provide general information in summary form. The contents do not constitute specific advice and should not be relied upon as such. Formal specific advice should be sought by members with respect to particular matters before taking action.

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