

REES BULLETIN NO. 4  
INSTALLATION OF WATER HEATERS AND LOW-FLOW  
SHOWERHEADS

*REESB4/3*

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Each of the specifications for the approved Energy Efficiency Activities includes various requirements that must be complied with to enable an Energy Efficiency Activity to be counted in fulfilment of a REES target. The specification for the installation of Water Heaters can be found in Schedule 4 of the REES Code (refer <http://www.escosa.sa.gov.au/library/100729-REESCode03.pdf> for REES Stage 1 [January 2009-December 2011] or <http://www.escosa.sa.gov.au/library/111130-REESCode04.pdf> for REES Stage 2 [January 2012-December 2014]. Schedule 4 needs to be read in its entirety, for example, clause 4 states that "A REES approved activity may only be performed once in a residential premises".

In addition to the various Australian Standards relating to the water heaters themselves, the South Australian Government also requires that a Water Flow Rate Performance Standard be met in relation to the installation of new water heaters in South Australia. This means that when a new water heater is replaced or installed, all shower outlets connected to the installed water heater must have a flow rate of 9 litres per minute or less (refer [http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Water,%20energy%20and%20environment/energy/energy\\_efficiency/documents/Plumbers\\_guide\\_installing\\_domestic\\_water\\_heaters.pdf](http://www.sa.gov.au/upload/franchise/Water,%20energy%20and%20environment/energy/energy_efficiency/documents/Plumbers_guide_installing_domestic_water_heaters.pdf) ).

For the purposes of REES, in a situation where a new water heater is installed, any low-flow showerheads installed at the same time as (or subsequent to) the installation of the water heater cannot be counted in fulfilment of any REES targets as this activity is "otherwise required by law". Furthermore, as the Water Flow Rate Performance Standard is "otherwise required by law", the Commission would require evidence from obliged retailers that any water heaters installed for the purposes of REES also complies with this requirement.

Accordingly, obliged retailers will be required to collect information sufficient to demonstrate how it ensures its requirements in relation to this specification are being met for Water Heater Activities conducted as part of REES before the Commission can determine whether or not REES activities can be counted in fulfilment of any REES targets.

Similarly, the Commission expects each obliged retailer to have sufficiently robust systems and processes in place to ensure an adequate level of internal assurance of compliance with the specifications for any and all Energy Efficiency Activities at the time they are reported to the Commission.

#### **Summary:**

- ▲ If a low-flow showerhead is installed on a date before the date on which the water heater is installed, the deemed tCO<sub>2</sub>-e for the showerhead can be counted for the purposes of REES;
- ▲ If a low-flow showerhead is installed on the same date as the water heater, the deemed tCO<sub>2</sub>-e for the showerhead cannot be counted for the purposes of REES; and
- ▲ If a low-flow showerhead is not installed on the same date as the water heater, the deemed tCO<sub>2</sub>-e for the water heater activity cannot be counted for the purposes of REES until such time as:
  - the low-flow showerhead is installed (with the deemed tCO<sub>2</sub>-e for the showerhead unable to be counted for the purposes of REES); or
  - a flow restrictor with a 3-star rating under the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme has been fitted to the existing shower outlets; or
  - the retailer can satisfy itself that low-flow showerheads or flow restrictors were already installed at the premises at the time the water heater was installed.

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