

Questions & Answers for the Second Briefing on Mandatory Labelling of Clothes Washing Machines under Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (held on 24 Sep 2010)

Q1: Is it necessary for suppliers to resubmit their applications for washing machines which have already been registered under the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)?

A: Washing machines which have already been registered under the voluntary WELS will be automatically converted to the Mandatory WELS (MWELS). Resubmissions of the applications for these washing machines are not necessary.

Q2: What are the specifications (eg. dimensions and colour) of the Water Efficiency Label?

A: Upon successful registration of the washing machines under the MWELS, the specifications of the Water Efficiency Label including all the necessary information that have to be provided in the label will be indicated in the same label which can be downloadable by the applicants.

Q3: Can the size of the Water Efficiency Labels be reduced?

A: The Water Efficiency Label serves as a source of information for the consumers. The information in the label shall therefore be clear and legible. By reducing the size of the label, it may proportionately reduce the size of the fonts resulting in unclear and illegible information. Hence, it is strongly advised that suppliers/retailers follow the size that PUB stipulates. Should suppliers/retailers encounter difficulties, they can approach PUB for advice and assistance.

Q4: When would be the effective date when the Water Efficiency Label must appear with the advertisements for washing machines?

A: With effect from 1 Oct 2011, all clothes washing machines intended for household use must be registered under MWELS & labelled before they can be supplied, sold, offered, displayed or advertised for supply or sale. Hence, with effect from 1 Oct 2011, advertisements for washing machines in all forms of media including newspapers, brochures, catalogues, publicity materials, etc shall display the MWELS label for each and every model of washing machine featured.

All information on the label shall be clearly visible and legible. Where it is impractical for the label to be of a size or quality sufficient for any of the information on the label to be clearly visible and legible, the relevant information shall be extracted and printed clearly and legibly alongside the label. The relevant information shall include the brand, model, water efficiency rating (number of ticks i.e. “○”, “✓”, “✓✓” or “✓✓✓” as well as wordings i.e. “Good”, “Very Good” or “Excellent”), water consumption and registration number. For more information, please refer to the “Guidelines for the Use of the Water Efficiency Label in Advertisements and Publicity Materials” in the Guidebook on Water Efficiency Labelling which can be found at the WELS website at www.pub.gov.sg/wels.

Q5: Must the Water Efficiency Label be included in advertisements on a washing machine where it is not intended to reveal its brand name and model?

A: The Water Efficiency Label for a particular washing machine must appear next to it in an advertisement so that it is easily identified with the model featured. All information on the label shall be clearly visible and legible and among others, must include information on the brand name and model of the washing machine featured.

Q6: What are the test requirements that PUB stipulates for testing of the water consumption of washing machines under MWELS?

A: Clause 8.6 of IEC 60456 Edition 5.0 (2010-02) relating to measurement of water consumption. The following are not required for the measurement of water consumption:

- Use of Reference Machine for normalisation of base load items.
- Parallel operation of Reference Machine with the test washing machine.
- Specific inlet water temperature, water hardness and water pressure.
- Specific ambient temperature and humidity.
- Use of stain test strips.
- Use of detergent.