

Penalties

Penalties* for breaching the new regulations

- **Manufacturing or importing for sale into Tasmania a heater that does not comply with Australian Standard AS/NZS 4013-1999: maximum penalty \$10,000.**
- **Selling a heater that does not comply with AS/NZS 4013-1999 or without a correct information plate attached: maximum penalty \$5,000.**
- **Modifying a heater so that smoke emissions are increased: maximum penalty \$5,000.**
- **Removal of an information plate, or altering the information on a plate in any way: maximum penalty \$5,000.**

* Penalties shown are those that may be imposed by a court. A regulatory authority may alternatively issue an infringement notice with a lesser penalty. All penalties may be subject to variation or indexation.



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Improving air quality

Environmental regulations for the manufacture, importation and sale of wood heaters

Department of Tourism, Arts
and the Environment
Environment Division



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Tasmania has introduced new regulations that will improve air quality by placing tighter controls on wood heaters and their smoke emissions.

When operated properly, wood heaters are an efficient and effective form of heating. The design of a heater can also have an effect on smoke emissions.

The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Distributed Atmospheric Emissions) Regulations 2007* are aimed at improving wood heater standards in Tasmania and ensuring they are operated in a socially responsible manner.

Under the regulations the sale of sub-standard wood heaters will be curbed, and modifications have been outlawed.

Why is there a need to control smoke from wood heaters?

Smoke from appliances such as wood heaters can contribute to excessive levels of fine particles in the air, which are known to increase the incidence of heart and respiratory diseases. Smoke can also be an environmental nuisance for neighbours. The new regulations will help to reduce these effects.

Who was consulted about the new regulations?

The regulations were developed in accordance with normal requirements for assessing the impact of regulations on the community. The State Government consulted with councils, government agencies, the wood heater industry and the public.

Do the regulations apply to all heating appliances?

They apply to heaters used in residences, hotels, clubs and retail premises burning any type of solid fuel. They do not apply to heaters in primary or secondary industry. Pellet heaters, cooking stoves, central or ducted heating systems and water heaters are excluded from the heater design provisions of the regulations.

What are the design standards for heaters?

All heaters manufactured in Tasmania, imported into Tasmania for sale, or sold in Tasmania must comply with Australian Standard AS/NZS 4013-1999. This is the Standard for heater smoke emissions.

How is compliance with the Australian Standard determined?

A heater that complies with the Standard will have an information plate showing that the heater has been tested to AS/NZS 4013-1999. It is an offence to sell a heater that

does not have such a plate attached. Purchasers should check that there is a plate with the required details.

A regulatory authority may require a manufacturer or importer to provide a laboratory test certificate which shows that a heater complies with AS/NZS 4013-1999. Retailers may also be required to produce a laboratory certificate in respect of a heater model, until such time as a national certification scheme is formally established. A scheme will incorporate a register of certified heaters that can be referenced by authorities, retailers and the public.

Can wood heaters be resold?

If a wood heater does not comply with AS/NZS 4013-1999 it cannot be sold, regardless if it is new or second-hand. Exceptions to this are heaters which are sold for the purpose of metal recycling or museum display, and those heaters already installed in buildings when the building changes ownership.

Can a heater be modified?

Any modification to wood heaters that may increase smoke emissions is prohibited. The information plate attached to a heater must not be altered, defaced or removed.