

ALIGNMENT OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR WATER-COOLED CHILLED WATER SYSTEMS

1. NEA is conducting a public consultation on proposed changes to the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) for water-cooled chilled water systems (WC-CWS) used for space cooling in new industrial facilities. The consultation will commence on 1 Jan 2025 and end on 31 Jan 2025.

Background

2. NEA introduced MEES for WC-CWS in new industrial facilities in 2020 to set a benchmark for the industry and catalyse companies to adopt, develop and operate more energy efficient systems. Under the Energy Conservation Act (ECA), new industrial facilities that apply for planning permission or equivalent on or after 1 Dec 2020 must conform to MEES for water-cooled chilled water systems. In addition, existing industrial facilities with WC-CWS will be required to conform to the same MEES when MEES for WC-CWS is implemented for registered corporations under the ECA on 1 Dec 2025 and other industrial facilities on 1 Dec 2029.
3. Under BCA's Building Control (Environmental Sustainability) Regulations, WC-CWS used in new commercial buildings for space cooling must meet a minimum energy efficiency standard of 0.63kW/RT as specified under the Code for Environmental Sustainability of Buildings (4th Edition).

Proposed changes

4. NEA intends to align the MEES level for WC-CWS **that is dedicated only for space cooling purposes** with BCA's energy efficiency standard. The new requirement will be as follows:
 - a) **New industrial facilities that are applying for planning permission or equivalent on or after 1 Apr 2026** that install WC-CWS only for space cooling purposes will need to comply with a **single MEES level of 0.63kW/RT (0.179kWe/kWc) regardless of the chilled water supply temperature.**
5. WC-CWS that are used for process cooling including for multiple applications (space and process cooling) will still be subject to the tiered-MEES to cater to the wide range of chilled water temperatures required.
6. The alignment will improve consistency of WC-CWS standards cross government agencies and further improve the energy performance of WC-CWS in new industrial facilities. **NEA intends to gazette this legislative amendment by November 2025 and to implement the alignment from 1 Apr 2026.**

Public consultation

7. NEA is seeking feedback via REACH on the proposed changes. Please find the link to the public consultation at <https://go.gov.sg/feedbackmees>, should you/your members wish to submit your feedback on the proposed changes. Thank you

Regards,

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