

Refrigerators and Freezers

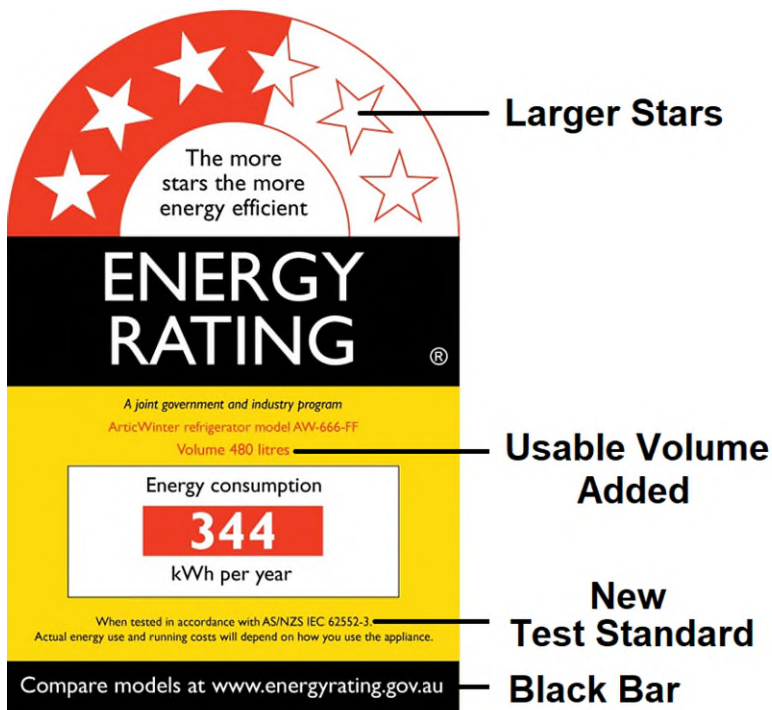
The Energy Rating Label is changing

Refrigerators and freezers are now tested according to an international test standard, rather than a unique Australian standard. This change has resulted in differences to the measured volumes and comparative energy consumptions of refrigerators and freezers. The new energy consumption measurement is expected to be closer to energy consumption during normal use in the home.

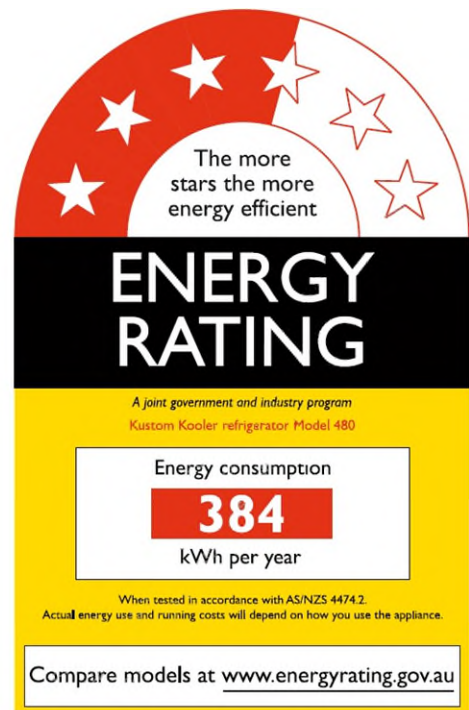
The new standard measures the available usable volume within the refrigerator or freezer, excluding hidden spaces, such as volumes inside air duct work. Depending on the configuration of the appliance, there may be slight or no differences in the measured volumes or the differences may be significant. For example, the measured volume of appliances, such as certain chest freezers, are not affected because all the volume inside the appliance is accessible. However, a frost-free refrigerator model that previously had a measured gross volume of 600 litres, may find that under the new measurement method the same appliance may appear to be 5% to 15% smaller (i.e. in the range 510 litres to 570 litres).

The new energy rating label includes total volume so consumers can directly compare appliances. Other changes to the label include larger rating stars and the bar at the bottom of the label now being black.

New Energy Rating Label



Old Energy Rating Label



Existing models that comply with the new minimum energy performance requirements are permitted to remain on sale and display the old energy rating label for the remainder of their registration periods. Products that are labelled with an old energy rating label do not show volume data on the label. The product's literature may indicate its total gross volume (which includes hidden space) and sometimes its storage volume, which excludes small spaces that may not be usable. The total volume included on the new label usually lies between the product's total gross volume and its total storage volume, which may be included on the manufacturer's rating label located inside the product's compartment wall.

For more information please see the document *Changes to Household Refrigerator and Freezer Energy Efficiency Regulation*