

MEPSL programs in PICs

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Pacific Appliance Labelling Standards (PALS) program phase 1

- Need for introducing appliance energy efficiency measures in the Pacific Region was realized at the 42nd meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2011
- AUD 3million was granted from the Australian Government to fund PALS project phase 1 – [2012 – 2019]
- 10 PICs were included in phase 1:

PIC	Status of Energy legislation	Status of MEPSL	Refrigerators and freezers	Air conditioners	Lighting	Other
Cook Is	Draft	Draft	Covered(a)	Covered(a)		
Fiji	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Televisions(a)
Kiribati	Enacted	Draft	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Niue	Starting	Starting	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
PNG	Starting	Starting	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Samoa	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Solomon Is	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Tonga	Enacted	Draft	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	Covered(a)	
Tuvalu	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	
Vanuatu	Enacted	Endorsed	Covered	Covered	Covered	

Recommendations for expansion of PALS programs /services to support MEPSL

**fall into 3 categories – [from PALS Evaluation report 2019]

1. PICs with drafted MEPSL legislations: Kiribati, Cook Islands, PNG, Tonga and Niue
 - Proceed to specify and provide needed services in those PICs where the strengths and opportunities are strong and the type of assistance needed is clear, cost-effective, and is likely to result in passage of legislation within three years.
2. PICs with MEPSL [Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu]
 - Support refresher training courses and provide technical consultations for stakeholders.
 - Support broader appliance coverage and more stringent standards
 - Support continued efforts to build awareness/buy-in among all stakeholder
 - Support an energy and cost savings impact study for at least one PIC after 3 /4 years of MEPSL operation.
 - Provide targeted assistance to help extending MEPSL to other appliances.
 - Conduct a pilot programme to test if incentive and financing strategies can move the market faster or to higher levels of efficiency.

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3. Region-wide Recommendations

- Main and update the online Pacific Appliance Database (PAD)
- Sponsor annual regional steering committee/regulator group meetings
- Support research to measure other effects of MEPSL, such as its impacts on consumer awareness and purchases, gender equality, safety, and integration of efficiency and renewable energy sources.

MEPSL Implementation and experiences in selected PICs

1. Fiji

Department of Energy (DoE)

- Sole regulator of MEPSL
- Conduct inspection and issue permits
- Making, amending, suspending or revoking guidelines in relation to the energy labeling and standards.
- Legal proceedings and offences
- Carry out disposal process.
- Promote and awareness to general public
- Conduct retailer/ customs trainings
- Carry out shop floor audits

*As of 1st of January 2012 it is mandatory for **All Household Freezers and Refrigerators** being imported into Fiji to comply with MEPSL

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Key stakeholders:

Stakeholders	Functions
Shop Retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retailers and importers of MEPS regulated goods
The Fiji Revenue and Customs Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point of contact at the Border • Appoints custom officers to examine, flags and detains MEPSL regulated goods • Assists DoE in temporary storage of detained items
Ministry of Trade, Co-operatives and SMEs .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Custodians of MEPSL regulation • Fiji's National Standards Body
The Solicitor Generals Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal advise • Drafting and Gazettal of Legislation
Department of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisors disposal of confiscated goods. • Provides permit for Landfill

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Testing and Registration of Goods

The importers have to ensure that all goods are/have been tested and comply with MEPS before importation into the country.

- Importer shall first ensure that the goods is/has been tested according to the AS/NZS standards 4474.1 and 4474.2.
- If Yes, the Importer can then proceed with the Importation Process.
- If No, then arrangements will have to be made for testing of the goods either through a laboratory.
- Once tested, the Importer can then proceed with the Importation Process and register through either:
 - Australian or New Zealand Regulators (Category A) or
 - Fiji Regulators (Category B and Category C)
- The registration shall be rejected if the goods do not meet the standards.
- Every import will require an permit from DOE

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Verifying CAT A Products

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Challenges

- MEPSL Team is centralized therefore mobilization for inspections, trainings and shop audits in the Western and Northern Division is challenging.
- Despite having adequate awareness, importers still fail to apply for permits prior to importation.
- Staff turnover/transfer to other positions within Department
- Customers seeking assistance from higher authority with regards to release of non-compliance appliances.

2. Samoa

Energy Policy Coordination and Management Division (EPCMD) role in implementing MEPSL

Administer the Energy Management Act 2020

Division 2 – Minimum Energy Performance Standards and Labelling

- EPCMD is the regulator of the EMA 2020 which includes the implementation of MEPSL

Registration of 3 electrical appliances: Air conditioning, Refrigerators/Freezers, Lighting

EPCMD chairs the Energy Efficiency Monitoring Team (EEMT) responsible for conducting shop audit inspections of retailers and companies (quarterly)

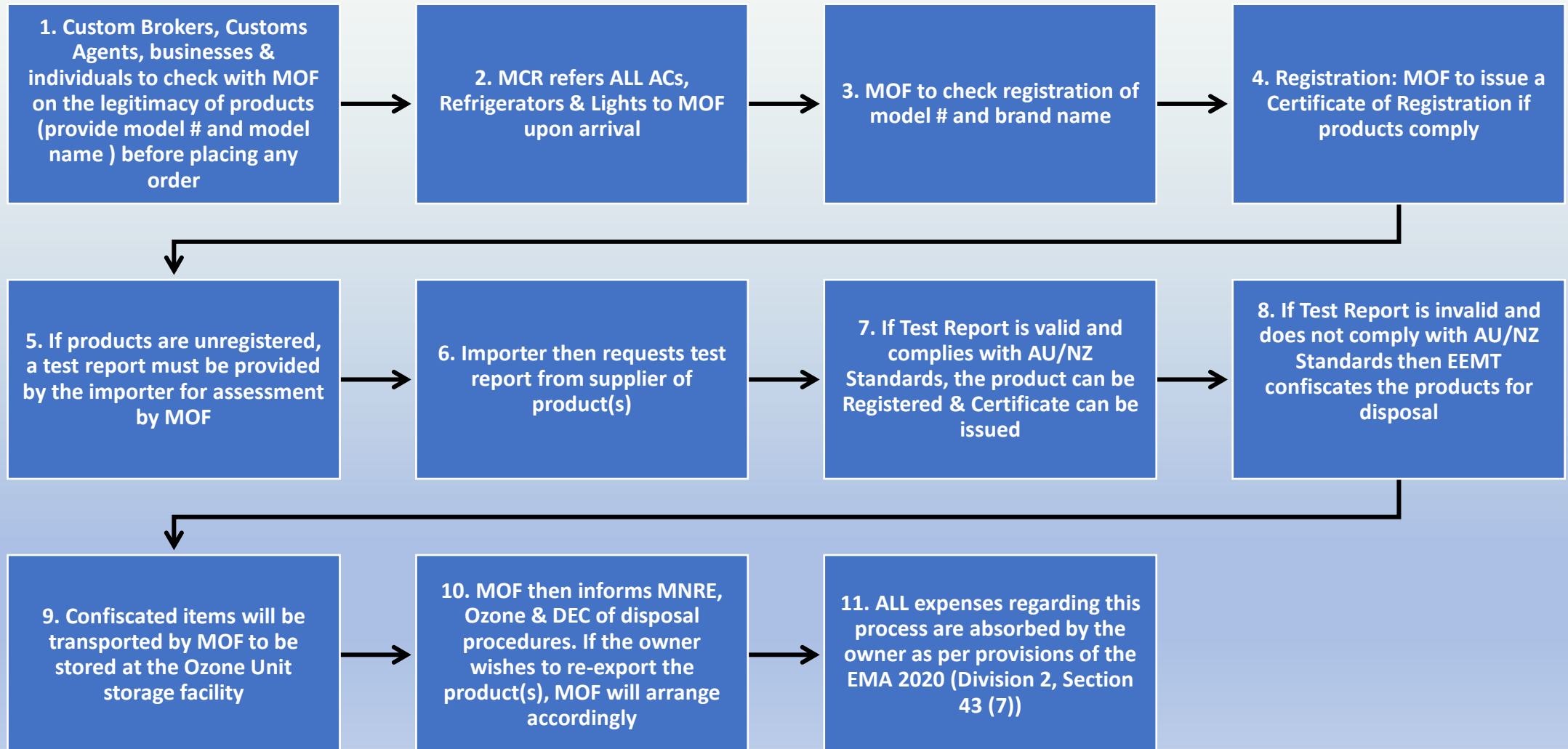
Committee members:

- MOF-EPCMD
- MNRE: Ozone Unit, Division of Environment and Conservation (DEC)
- MOP: Human Resource Management and Strategic Governance Division
- MCIL: Industry Development & Investment Promotion Division
- MCR: Border Operations & Control Division

EEMT is also responsible for the disposal of unregulated appliances

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Registration Process



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Samoa's experience with non-compliant regulated appliances

- The EE Act was enacted in 2017; however, a grace period of 1 year was allowed for retailers and individuals to sell their unregulated appliances until January 2018.
- The EE Act 2017 was repealed into the EMA 2020.
- Non-compliant products are given 2 options as per provisions of the EMA 2020: disposal or re-exportation.
 - E.g.: The EEMT successfully disposed of 7 unregulated refrigerators and 10 unregulated air conditioning units. These products were discovered during shop audit inspections.

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Challenges since the MEPSL was adopted and implemented in Samoa

- Public awareness
- Bribery
- Registration of appliances
 - E.g.: Community members who are unable to access the online registration database (Pacific Appliance Database)
- Test reports
 - Difficulty in obtaining test reports to facilitate registration
 - Submission of invalid test reports (e.g.: test reports in foreign languages)
 - Forging of test reports (e.g.: cases where test reports were edited/photoshopped)

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Regulator's challenges & difficulties in using the Pacific Appliances Database (PAD)

- Require further capacity development in using the PAD
- Sudden system shutdowns/malfunctions
 - These sudden shutdowns sometimes interrupt the registration of products. EPCMD then alternates to registering products by cross-referencing with the Australian Energy Rating Website (www.energyrating.gov.au) prior to issuing a letter to inform MCR if the products have already been registered.
- Lights registration is not included in the PAD
- Retailers forgetting their login credentials

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Disposal of Products



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3. Vanuatu

Update on the EE Act and Regulations

- EE Act was passed by the parliament on 9th December 2016;
- Gazetted by State Law on 29th March 2017;
- Regulation was signed by the Minister of Climate Change and Energy on 29 September 2017;
- Gazetted by State Law on 3rd October 2017(commencement date);
- Applies to business and personal importers who have placed firm orders after the commencement date;
- Registration of regulated products is in good progress.

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Regulated Products (and commencement date/Year)

- Fridges and Refrigerators(2017);
- Air Conditions(2017);
- Lightings(2017)
 - Incandescent Lamps;
 - Linear Fluorescent Lamp
 - Compact Fluorescent Lamps
 - Fluorescent Lamp Ballast
- Televisions(2023);
- Clothes Washers(2023).

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PAD Registration Update in Vanuatu

- In April 2019, all applications and registrations were submitted, assessed and issued through the PAD;
- The regulator(DoE) created usernames and passwords for the major importers(especially retailers);
- All login details were distributed to respective users to allow them to register their products and apply for new registration certificates;
- Assessments and approvals were processed by the regulator(DoE);
- In April 2021, Vanuatu worked in collaboration with the department of Trades to launched the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window(VesW) system;
- Once the VesW was officially launched, the PAD and the AS/NZ registration database were integrated into the VesW for product verification purposes.

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Role of DoE during and After Registration

- Ensure that applicants have access to the VeSW online registration through the singlewindow.gov.vu link;
- Ensure that all relevant information, including required documentation are provided during application submissions;
- Ensure that an application is assessed and processed (accepted, approved and paid) accordingly in the system;
- Ensure that, prior to importation, the importer must obtain a valid registration certificate;
- Conduct Surveillance checks, especially in the retail shops or at the border to ensure only energy efficient products are imported into the country (monitoring compliance in the field);
- Issue penalties for non compliant or prohibited imports;
- Seize non-compliant products that do not meet the requirements;
- Conduct awareness on the EE Act and regulations;
- Conduct annual refresher trainings to customs border control officers

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Procedures to Apply for Registration Certificate in the VesW

- Importer must provide their product details to their respective customs brokers/agents. Product must comply with AS/NZ standard requirements;
- Customs agents/brokers apply on behalf of the applicant/client;
- DoE assess the application and verify the product specifications accordingly;
- If the product details are ok, the application is accepted and forwarded to the regulator for approval;
- If a product detail does not meet the requirements, the applicant is requested to provide supporting documents such as an AS/NZ test report to support the application;
- Once the product documents are assessed and verified, the regulator approves the application;
- After an approval, the registration fee is paid and the customs agent or DoE officers print the certificate and present it to customs officers during inspection and clearance.

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Approximate applications and registrations processed [2017 – 2023]

Year	Number of applications received	Number of applications approved	Number of applications rejected
2017	3	1	2
2018	65 (plus)	60	5 (plus)
2019	140 (plus)	138	2 (plus)
2020	65 (plus)	60	5 (plus)
2021	65 (plus)	59	6
2022/2023	Approx. 90 (ongoing)	Approx. 70 (ongoing)	Approx. 33 (ongoing)

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Challenges

- Staff turnover or communication breakdown within a company, which sometimes resulted in most traders/importers becoming aware of their implications once their products reach the border.
- Lack of funds for awareness, especially for public announcements throughout the available media outlets(e.g. television, radio, etc).
- Lack of adapted and attractive financing mechanisms (or financial incentives) to help reduce the high cost of EE products;
- High cost associated with EE programs.

Thank you!!