



OVERVIEW OF MEPSL IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Background

- ▶ Energy efficiency and conservation is one of the strategic areas under the 2006 National Energy Policy (NEP), Solomon Islands.
- ▶ Endorsed at the 42nd meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in September 2011, as a means of realizing energy savings in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).
- ▶ 2014, the Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) Programme (co-ordinated by SPC with assistance from the Australian government) was initiated.
- ▶ 2016 - Solomon Islands gazetted the regulations governing the importation of Restricted Electrical Appliances.

Why Regulate?

- ▶ To reduce emissions
- ▶ Solomon Islands energy sector remains a largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the country.
- ▶ To address this, is thru Sustainable energy “Twin Pillars are:
 1. Renewable Energy
 2. **Energy efficiency**
- ▶ **Key Objective - Energy Efficiency**
- ▶ To reduce electricity consumption by increasing the average energy efficiency of new appliances through mandatory energy performance standards and energy labelling.

Cost - Benefit Analysis

- ▶ For S.I, for household appliances alone, the potential benefit to Solomon Islands is:
 - ❑ A saving of about 610,000 litres per year in diesel fuel by 2020 (with a value of between USD 530,000 and 630,000 per year, depending on oil prices);
 - ❑ A reduction in emissions of about 1,700 tonnes CO₂-emission per year by 2020.
 - ❑ Net savings to households of between SBD\$363 and 385 per year by 2020, rising to over SBD\$1,000 per year by 2028 (even after allowing for possible increases in appliance costs, should they occur).

MEPSL INTENTIONS

- ▶ S.I aims to keep out inefficient electrical appliances and lights,
- ▶ And to encourage consumers to buy more efficient products.
- ▶ This is good for the country and the environment, because we will not need to import as much fuel for generating electricity.
- ▶ It is also good for the people, who will save money on their electricity bills

Introduction

MEPSL/ PALS

- ▶ PALS is a Program on Minimum Energy Performance Standards for Electrical Appliances and Labeling.
- ▶ To regulate the import/export selected electrical appliances of high electrical power consumption.
- ▶ The following are regulated under PALS:
 - Refrigerators and freezers (COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL)
 - Air conditioners
 - Lights

To achieve this, border control has been identified as the effective way to enforce this program.

STANDARDS: AS/NZS

- ▶ To ensure uniformity thru out the region- we use only one standard
- ▶ Avoid misleading information to customers e.g. SG\$ 0.27/kWh
- ▶ AS/NZS - neighbouring and high volume of imports thru them
- ▶ As more of our neighbours implement MEPS and energy labelling laws, it has become necessary for Solomon Islands to do the same, to prevent inefficient products which cannot be sold elsewhere from being dumped here.

PALS

- ▶ PALS commenced 2015
- ▶ Stakeholder consultations
- ▶ Regulative framework put in place - Customs & Excise Act - Cap. 121 & Consumer Protection Act Cap.63. (refer to legislation Part 1).
- ▶ Schedules of regulated products. (refer part 2).
- ▶ Training for officers done in country and abroad:
 1. Customs operating procedures
 2. Consumer affairs operating procedures
- ▶ Grace period of one year
- ▶ Regulation came into force 2016.
- ▶ Now -operational and ongoing.

STAKEHODERS & THEIR ROLES

▶ **ENERGY DIVISION**

- Regulator
- Coordinate the program
- Registration of importers, manage data base, compliance check etc

▶ **CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

- Shop inspection
- Floor audit

▶ **CUSTOMS & EXCISE DIVISION**

- Border control - Enforcement

A. ENERGY DIVISION: PALS PERMIT/CERTIFICATION

- ▶ Administer MEPSL/ PALS in Solomon Islands.
- ▶ Administer the PAD database.

<https://pad.spc.int/>

- Energy Division act as the Regulator to PALS/ MEPSL.

Main Activities: PALS Office- Energy Division

- ▶ Registration of importers/ exporters
- ▶ Registration of Appliances - Models & Brands
- ▶ Compliance check on affected appliances imports
- ▶ Issue permits
- ▶ Shop floor audit/inspection
- ▶ Work with Customs & Consumer affairs in the enforcement level.
- ▶ Work with the NOU (National ozone unit - Mrs Mariana Nonga)

B. CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES

❑ ENFORCEMENT OF MEPSL

- ▶ Check that a [certificate/ PERMIT] is present; see certificate..
- ▶ Verify that the [certificate] is likely to be genuine, by undertaking some basic checks; and
- ▶ Carry out the normal checks that Customs would undertake for consignments of this type.

CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES CONT'D

- ❑ If the documents or the physical consignment do not pass these checks, the consignment should be detained and the [Regulator] notified.
- ❑ The reasons for detention should also be communicated to the importer.
- ❑ The first objective should be to resolve any issues as quickly as possible, with the aim of clearing the consignment. If no [certificate] has been submitted prior to importation, the [Regulator] may have the power to issue a [certificate] after importation, provided they are satisfied that the model and brand of products have already been registered, or meet the criteria for registration.

CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES CONT'D

- ▶ However, if it is determined that there has been a breach that cannot be resolved, then the consignment will be either be:
 1. Transferred to the custody of the [Regulator] to dispose of in accordance with the [Legislation];
 2. Seized by Customs under the provisions of the [Customs Act] for disposal in accordance with the provisions of the Act

CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES CONT'D

► Normal checks

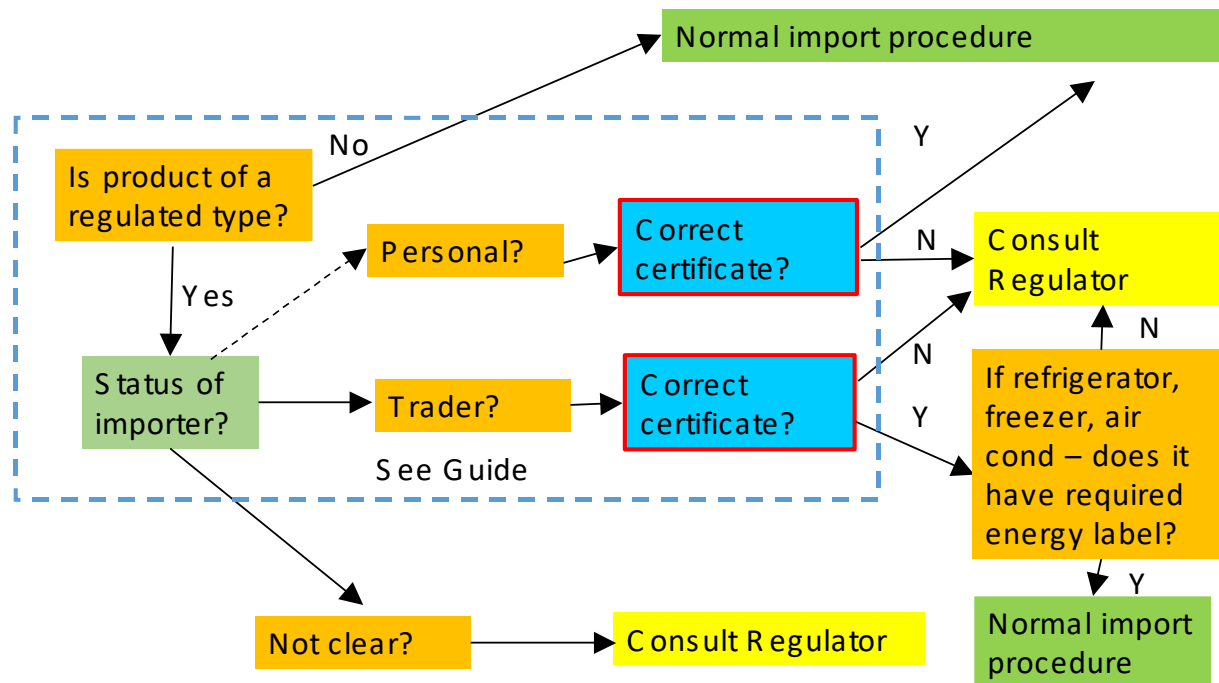
Customs officers should perform the same risk assessments and checks as they would for any other imports. For example, if the importer is a business with a good record of compliance, fewer checks would be undertaken than for a first-time importer.

Documentation also needs to be carefully examined to assess that it is genuine, and matches the actual consignment in terms of product types and numbers - i.e. if the documents refer to 50 refrigerators then that is what should be in the container.

CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES CONT'D

- ▶ Check that the products are of a type that is covered by the Regulations. In some cases the importer may be unaware of the [Legislation] or unaware that certain products come within the scope of the [Legislation]. Therefore they will not have obtained the required [Certificate] from the [Regulator].
- ▶ For products subject to energy labelling (ie refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners), check that the correct type of label appears on the products, and that there is no prohibited non-standard label
- ▶ Check that the brands and models match the documentation. The correct brand and model number should appear on the energy label and on the compliance plate that is permanently stuck to the product (at the back or inside the door).
- ▶ If the consignment does not pass these checks, the consignment should be detained and the [Regulator] notified

CUSTOMS & EXCISE Standard Operating Procedures



CUSTOMS & EXCISE ROLES CONT'

At times when it is necessary to consult the [Regulator], the following procedure will be followed:

- ▶ Detain the consignment - do not clear it.
- ▶ Consult the Customs Officer designated as expert in Customs obligations under the MEPS and Labelling [Legislation], and act as directed.
- ▶ If the designated Customs Officer is not available, contact the [Regulator] agency officer responsible for contact with the Customs Department.
 - PHILS KENIOMA, PH: 21525
- ▶ If the [Regulator] agency officer is not available, contact the [Regulator]
 - MYSELF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- ▶ Shop Floor Audit
- ▶ Inspections
- ▶ Power to enter and seizure

ABNORMALITIES

- ▶ Unregulated categories: Manual Permit
- ✓ Commercial refrigerators and freezers
- ▶ Occasional importers (apple group)
- ▶ During unexpected times of database failure.

LABELS (refer part 5)

Energy rating: Refrigerator

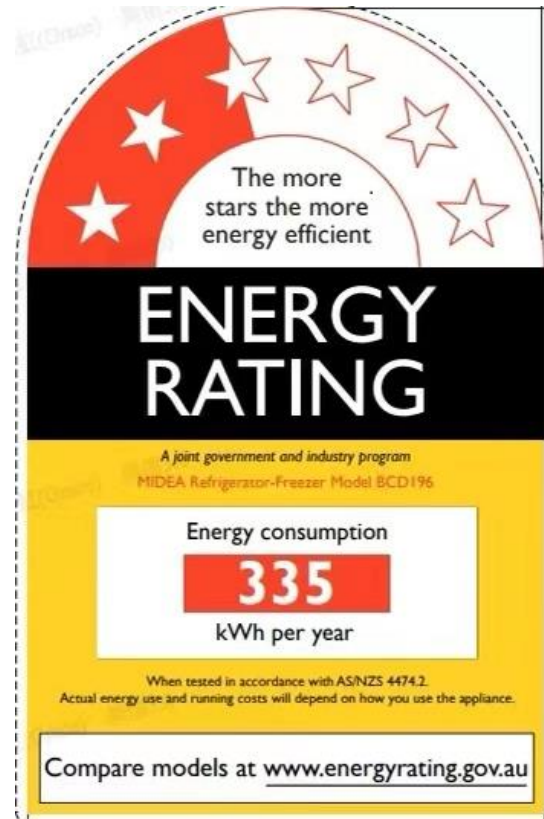




Figure 1: A large, multi-tiered bookshelf filled with books, organized into three vertical sections.

Thank you