

MEPS - Northmore Gordon

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MEPS

MEPS stands for Minimum Energy Performance Standards. These are regulatory requirements that establish baseline energy efficiency levels for buildings, equipment or facilities. MEPS ensure that products and systems meet specified performance thresholds, supporting broader energy management and decarbonization objectives. Understanding MEPS is essential for organizations planning upgrades or evaluating compliance with government schemes, as many energy efficiency programs reference MEPS requirements when determining project eligibility.

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What does MEPS stand for?

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How do Minimum Energy Performance Standards relate to energy efficiency projects?

MEPS set mandatory baseline efficiency levels that equipment and buildings must meet. When planning energy efficiency improvements, MEPS provide a reference point for assessing current performance gaps and identifying upgrade opportunities. Projects that improve a facility beyond MEPS levels may qualify for additional support through schemes like the NSW Energy Savings Scheme or Victorian Energy Upgrades. Our energy audits and assessments help identify where facilities fall short of or exceed MEPS requirements, informing investment decisions.

Why is understanding MEPS important when building an investment case?

MEPS establish minimum acceptable performance levels, meaning improvements beyond these standards may unlock certificate eligibility or grant support. When developing an investment case, distinguishing between reaching MEPS compliance and exceeding standards is critical for assessing funding pathways. Equipment that only meets MEPS typically cannot generate energy-efficiency certificates, while upgrades that surpass these minimums often qualify for financial support. We assist

clients in clarifying MEPS requirements during project scoping to preserve funding options and support evidence gathering.

What is the relationship between MEPS and environmental certificates?

Equipment meeting only MEPS requirements generally cannot generate energy-efficiency certificates under major Australian schemes. To qualify for certificates, upgrades must exceed MEPS baselines and meet scheme-specific activity requirements. For instance, Victorian Energy Upgrades and NSW Energy Savings Scheme projects require improvements beyond minimum standards to create eligible certificates. Understanding this distinction prevents projects from pursuing certificate pathways for work that only achieves compliance, ensuring accurate investment planning and focused evidence collection.

How do MEPS affect measurement and verification planning?

MEPS establish the performance threshold against which improvements are measured. When planning measurement and verification, establishing a baseline that reflects current MEPS compliance versus actual site performance is essential. If a facility operates below MEPS, the baseline measurement must capture this gap. Projects demonstrating savings beyond MEPS require clear documentation of measurement boundaries and adjustments. Our M&V services include baseline establishment that accounts for MEPS requirements, ensuring credible savings documentation for scheme submissions or performance reporting.

What role does Northmore Gordon play in assessing MEPS compliance?

Our energy audits and assessment services evaluate facility performance against applicable MEPS requirements. During the Assess stage of our delivery approach, we investigate energy use patterns, equipment specifications and operating conditions to identify performance gaps. These findings inform feasibility studies and investment cases by clarifying whether improvements must reach MEPS compliance or can pursue higher efficiency targets for certificate eligibility. This assessment is foundational to scoping appropriate energy optimization strategies and funding pathways for clients.

Can a project that only achieves MEPS compliance still be worthwhile?

Yes. While work achieving only MEPS compliance may not generate environmental certificates, it can deliver operational, maintenance and energy-cost benefits. An investment case should evaluate projects on their own economic and operational merits separately from conditional incentive support. MEPS compliance may also be required by regulation or lease obligations, making such work necessary regardless of certificate eligibility. We assist clients in preparing investment cases that clearly distinguish compliance requirements from discretionary efficiency improvements and their respective values.

How do MEPS relate to specific sectors like manufacturing or commercial buildings?

MEPS standards vary by equipment type, building class and jurisdiction. Manufacturing facilities face MEPS for motors, boilers, and compressed-air systems, while commercial buildings have standards for chillers, air conditioning and lighting. Sector-specific guidance in our knowledge library addresses these distinctions, helping organizations understand applicable standards. When scoping energy projects in manufacturing, food and beverage, or building sectors, identifying the relevant MEPS ensures that baseline conditions and improvement opportunities are correctly defined and compliance risks are minimized.