

Refrigerated Display Cabinet Upgrades

Canonical: <https://northmoregordon.com/technologies/refrigerated-display-cabinets/>

Details:

Why upgrade · Screening · Whole system · Certificates · Evidence

Efficient refrigerated display cabinets can reduce electricity and maintenance demand while protecting food temperature, product quality and customer access. Victorian and NSW businesses may also have certificate pathways under current state-scheme activities, but old rebate tables and product examples should not be used as a current quote.

Why consider an upgrade

replace unreliable or high-consumption cabinets;

improve temperature stability and product protection;

reduce heat released into the conditioned space;

lower maintenance and refrigerant risk; and

coordinate cabinet replacement with a broader refrigeration improvement plan.

The investment decision should compare installed cost, electricity, maintenance, useful capacity, merchandising needs, expected life and any conditional certificate contribution.

Screen the equipment and project timing

Record the site, jurisdiction, existing cabinet, proposed make and model, quantity, equipment class, energy rating, refrigerant, purchase date, installation date, supplier and installer. Confirm the model against the current approved or eligible product list for the relevant activity.

Timing can affect whether nomination, assignment or other documentation must be completed before purchase or installation. Ask the accredited provider before committing, even if a historical version of the scheme allowed later claims.

Assess whole-system refrigeration performance

A cabinet replacement may interact with room air conditioning, remote refrigeration, door heaters, defrost, controls and operating practices. For a larger site, consider:

temperature and defrost settings;

door condition, seals and loading practices;

condenser cleanliness and heat rejection;

refrigerant charge, leakage and maintenance records;

night blinds, doors, lighting and anti-sweat controls; and

submetering or monitoring for major refrigeration loads.

This avoids treating a product rebate as the complete energy strategy. The energy audit service can investigate the wider system.

VEU and ESS assessment

Victorian Energy Upgrades and the NSW Energy Savings Scheme can support eligible activities through VEECs or ESCs. Eligibility depends on the current activity, premises, model, implementation date, evidence and certificate assignment. The provider should state the governing rule or specification, calculation, price date, fees and customer payment conditions.

Do not treat a historical dollar example as a guaranteed rebate. Certificate quantity, market price and commercial contribution can all change. See government schemes and certificate types .

Evidence and completion

Confirm eligibility and documentation before the relevant commitment event.

Photograph and record existing equipment where required.

Retain quotation, invoice, model, serial number and product-list evidence.

Document installation, removal or disposal and commissioning.

Complete assignment, customer declaration and provider checks.

Track calculated, created, sold and paid certificates separately.

For a portfolio, use a consistent equipment register and exception process. Related material includes food, beverage and commercial sectors , food and beverage efficiency strategies and M&V; .

Contact Northmore Gordon with the site, existing and proposed equipment, model details, purchase status and installation date.

What is a refrigerated display cabinet and why is energy efficiency important?

A refrigerated display cabinet (RDC) is commercial cooling equipment used to store and display food products at controlled temperatures in retail environments. Energy efficiency matters because refrigeration typically represents a significant operating cost for food retailers, and older or poorly maintained systems consume excess energy while maintaining product quality. Modern high-efficiency RDCs reduce electricity consumption, lower operating costs, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The Australian Government identifies refrigeration as a key energy investigation area in food and beverage operations, making equipment upgrades a practical decarbonisation measure for eligible businesses.

How do the Victorian Energy Upgrades and NSW Energy Savings Scheme support refrigeration upgrades?

Both schemes create financial incentives for upgrading to eligible high-efficiency refrigerated display cabinets. Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) issues Victorian Energy Efficiency Certificates (VEECs) for eligible activities, while the NSW Energy Savings Scheme (ESS) creates Energy Savings Certificates (ESCs) for compliant energy-saving projects. These certificates have financial value, effectively subsidising the cost of new equipment. The actual rebate amount depends on the equipment model, jurisdiction and applicable scheme method. We can assess your location, existing equipment and proposed upgrade to determine eligibility and the available incentive under the relevant state programme.

What are the key eligibility requirements for claiming a refrigeration rebate?

Eligibility depends on your state and scheme. In Victoria, you can typically claim a rebate for eligible high-efficiency RDCs after purchase and installation. In NSW under the Energy Savings Scheme, nomination must occur before installation—you cannot claim retrospectively after work is complete. The equipment model must be listed as eligible under the relevant scheme specifications. You must be a business customer with a valid operating premise. Installation should follow manufacturer and scheme

guidelines. We recommend confirming current scheme specifications and your nomination status before proceeding, as rules and eligible product lists change over time.

What is the difference between Victorian and NSW rebate claiming processes?

The key difference is timing. Victoria permits post-purchase claims: you can upgrade equipment, install it, then apply for the rebate with proof of purchase attached. NSW requires pre-installation nomination under the Energy Savings Scheme; the energy saver must be documented and the project nominated before installation begins, meaning retrospective claims are ineligible. Both processes require completing a claim form and submitting it with supporting documentation. Rebate payment typically takes approximately two weeks once approved. We can guide your business through the correct process for your state to avoid missing eligibility windows or nomination deadlines.

How does Northmore Gordon assist with refrigeration rebate claims?

We support businesses through the entire rebate process: assessing equipment eligibility, determining available incentive amounts under VEU or ESS, managing nomination and evidence gathering (particularly important in NSW where pre-installation nomination is required), and submitting claim documentation. The company can work with your installer to coordinate the upgrade or engage directly with your business. This coordination prevents common pitfalls such as missing nomination deadlines in NSW or selecting ineligible equipment models. Our role as an Accredited Certificate Provider gives it authority to navigate scheme requirements and ensure claims meet current specifications.

What equipment types qualify for the refrigeration rebate, and how do I confirm eligibility?

Eligible equipment includes upright display and storage fridges, upright display and storage freezers, compact display fridges, and open-deck refrigerated units. Specific makes and models are listed on approved supplier product pages, such as SKOPE's cash-back listing. Examples of eligible units include SKOPE VF1500X, VF1300X, OD1100-2, and BME1200N-AC models, though rebate amounts vary by state and specific product. Equipment must meet scheme efficiency standards for the relevant jurisdiction. Rather than checking individual models yourself, we can review your proposed purchase against current eligible-product lists and confirm rebate entitlement before you commit to the upgrade.

What financial return can a business expect from upgrading refrigerated display cabinets?

Financial returns come from two sources: the direct rebate (ranging from approximately AU\$130 to \$840 depending on state and model) and ongoing operational savings from reduced electricity consumption. The rebate is paid directly into your business bank account and can be received within two weeks of claim approval. Ongoing savings depend on equipment efficiency, your current electricity tariff, cabinet age and usage patterns. Modern high-efficiency RDCs typically use significantly less energy than older models, translating to reduced monthly operating costs. A complete investment case should account for both the rebate and estimated energy savings, allowing your business to understand the financial merit independently of the incentive.

Can Northmore Gordon help compare refrigeration upgrade options and investment returns?

Yes. Our expertise in energy optimisation, measurement and verification, and investment-case development supports comprehensive refrigeration assessments. The company can help you understand your current equipment's energy consumption, model savings from proposed alternatives, calculate payback periods with and without rebate support, and identify which equipment options best fit your business requirements and budget. This structured approach prevents over-reliance on unconfirmed incentives and ensures the upgrade remains worthwhile even if scheme rules change. We can also coordinate scheme navigation to maximise available support, turning a simple equipment replacement into a strategic energy-management decision.

What happens if I don't claim the rebate—does the upgrade still make sense?

Yes, provided the business case stands on operating merits alone. The rebate reduces your upfront capital cost and improves payback, but modern high-efficiency refrigerated display cabinets typically deliver genuine energy savings through lower electricity consumption. These savings accumulate over the equipment's lifetime, offsetting the higher initial purchase price of efficient models versus older alternatives. The rebate should be treated as a bonus support mechanism, not the primary justification for upgrading. We recommend preparing your investment case with and without conditional support, showing your management team the decision's resilience. If equipment replacement is imminent, efficiency gains may justify the upgrade regardless of programme eligibility.

What should I do if my equipment is already installed or my business operates in a state without a rebate scheme?

If equipment is already installed in NSW, retrospective claims are ineligible under the Energy Savings Scheme; however, Victoria may permit post-installation claims in some circumstances. Check current VEU and ESS scheme specifications for your state, or contact Northmore Gordon to clarify your options. If your business operates outside Victoria and NSW, formal rebate schemes may not be available, but other support pathways may exist depending on your location and circumstances. We operate in Australia and Singapore, so the company can assess location-specific incentives or alternative funding mechanisms. Even without a rebate, the upgrade may remain commercially justified through operational savings alone, and we can help develop that investment case.