Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority
Te Tari Tiaki Pūngao

# media release

Media release –**for industry publications – draft not for publication**

## *New standard for NZ windows*

Helping homeowners choose higher performing windows for their new build or renovation is now easier with the launch of ENERGY STAR qualified windows.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) has launched ENERGY STAR qualified windows in consultation with the Window Association of New Zealand (WANZ) and Building Research Association of New Zealand (BRANZ), to ensure a technically robust certification process.

EECA Senior Technical Advisor Christian Hoerning says ENERGY STAR qualified windows will give homeowners assurance about the energy efficiency of their windows. He says an ENERGY STAR qualified window must have a minimum R value of 0.32 for an individual window or a house-lot,[1] reducing heat loss by more than 18 percent[2] compared to standard aluminium framed double glazing.

“ENERGY STAR qualified windows are a step up in thermal performance over standard aluminium framed double glazing and will make houses warmer and more comfortable.”

BRANZ Senior Scientist, John Burgess says the ENERGY STAR qualified windows programme is open to all manufacturers and suppliers. He says BRANZ is a qualified provider of verification and can verify ENERGY STAR qualified windows.

WANZ Executive Director Stewart Knowles says ENERGY STAR qualified windows will encourage homeowners, new home builders and the residential building industry to actively seek and adopt higher thermal performance window frames and glazing technologies.

“ENERGY STAR is widely recognised and an easy way for homeowners to identify higher performing energy efficient windows.”

[1] average for an entire house-lot of windows

2 calculated by EECA

Christian Hoerning says over the next five years about 21,000 new homes are expected to be built each year, especially as a result of population growth in Auckland and the Christchurch rebuild.

“Increasing the uptake of energy efficient windows installed in new and existing homes has the potential to make a significant difference to improving the energy efficiency and comfort of homes,” he says.

For more information about ENERGY STAR qualified windows visit XXXXXXX.

**Media contacts**

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**Background**

**What makes an Energy Star Window better than standard double glazing (insulating glass units)?**

An Energy Star Window will typically require at least one or both of the following:

- *Higher performance Insulating Glazing Unit:*
  Low-emissivity (low-E) double glazing to improve insulation by reflecting escaping heat back into the room.
  *Higher performance frame*
  Thermally efficient aluminium frames or made from an insulating material such as uPVC or wood. These will lose less heat than windows with standard aluminium frames.

An Energy Star Window may also have the following:

- *High Performance Spacers:*
  IGU spacers made of silicone foam, or special plastic and/or a stainless steel combination to separate the glass panes (instead of aluminium) to reduce heat loss and condensation at the glass edge.
- *A Gas Fill:*
  An inert gas filling (such as argon) between the glass layers. This acts as a better insulator than air, reducing window heat loss by about 5-10%, compared to double-glazing (insulating glass units) with air filling.

BRANZ can verify the performance of any non-standard window.

**About EECA**

*The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) is the Crown agency that encourages, supports, and promotes energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable energy in New Zealand. EECA provides information to households through ENERGYWISE™ www.energywise.govt.nz and to businesses through EECA BUSINESS™ www.eecabusiness.govt.nz*

**About BRANZ**

*BRANZ is an independent and impartial research, testing, consulting and information company providing services and resource for the building industry. For more details see www.branz.co.nz*