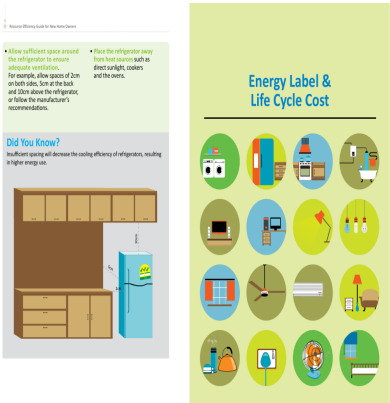




New Energy Label Rules: Check Before You Import

Description

From 1 July 2026, an individual or business importing regulated goods for its own use must register with NEA and ensure the goods meet Minimum Energy Performance Standards. Visual advertisements for regulated goods must display the Energy Label or, where space is limited, the tick rating and Certificate of Registration number.

Singapore energy label rules July 2026: the decision table

Situation	What to do
Buying from a local shop	Check the label and registered model
Ordering directly from overseas	Check own-use import registration before payment
Online ad omits tick rating and COR	Do not assume the model is compliant
Model differs by suffix	Match the exact model number

The rule now reaches own-use imports

The previous gap for goods not imported for sale has been closed. Marketplace delivery does not shift the compliance check entirely to the seller.

The label contains assumptions

Annual energy cost is a comparison tool based on NEA’s stated usage and electricity assumptions, not a household bill guarantee.

Model identity is exact

A visually identical appliance can have another model code or market specification. Compare the full model number with NEA's registered-goods database.

Add lifecycle cost

Purchase price plus estimated annual energy cost over expected life gives a better comparison than price alone. Label assumptions should be stated.

Keep evidence before delivery

Save the listing, label, COR, model code and registration result in case the shipment is queried or the item differs.

Worked example

Two refrigerators cost S\$900 and S\$1,080. If the second model's displayed annual energy cost is S\$45 lower, the simple payback on the S\$180 price difference is four years. This calculation uses the label assumptions and does not predict actual electricity use.

Turn the example into a decision record

The worked example is useful only if its inputs are replaced with the reader's actual dates, amounts, documents or observations. For this task—avoid importing a regulated good that fails singapore registration or efficiency requirements—keep the decision and its supporting record on the same line. That exposes a missing input before the action becomes difficult to reverse.

Trigger or question	Current action	Evidence to retain
1. Buying from a local shop	Check the label and registered model	Save the dated input, confirmation or advice that supports this choice.
2. Ordering directly from overseas	Check own-use import registration before payment	Save the dated input, confirmation or advice that supports this choice.
3. Online ad omits tick rating and COR	Do not assume the model is compliant	Save the dated input, confirmation or advice that supports this choice.
4. Model differs by suffix	Match the exact model number	Save the dated input, confirmation or advice that supports this choice.

Record where each answer came from and when it was checked. If a live service, signed document or professional opinion conflicts with a general webpage, preserve both and resolve the difference with the body responsible for the decision. Do not silently substitute a convenient number or date.

Action checklist

1. Identify whether the good is regulated

2. Copy the exact model code
3. Check the NEA database
4. Read the Energy Label
5. Confirm own-use import steps
6. Calculate lifecycle cost
7. Keep evidence and delivery records

Two practical tools to keep

An exact-model compliance checklist. Put the controlling dates, amounts or observations in one place and attach the evidence beside each input. This makes the decision reproducible if a family member, colleague or adviser needs to check it later.

A four-step lifecycle-cost calculation. Test the ordinary case and the failure case before money, a filing or a booking becomes irreversible. Mark calculations as calculations and leave uncertain fields unresolved until an authority or qualified professional confirms them.

What the primary sources establish

Primary source	Claim used here
NEA 24 June 2026 announcement	1 July changes for own-use imports and advertising.
NEA Energy Label guide	Tick ratings, annual-energy-cost fields and display rules.

The links sit beside the claims they support. Live services, formal notices and individual facts can change the outcome, so re-open the controlling page immediately before acting.

Continue with the next useful step

For the adjacent task, read [how fake delivery fees target online shoppers](#). If the decision moves into a different stage, continue with [the July 2026 refuse-collection fee change](#).

Errors that change the outcome

- Buying by brand name only
- Treating a foreign label as Singapore compliance
- Ignoring a missing COR number
- Assuming annual cost equals the bill
- Paying before checking import requirements

Keep dated records, confirmations and advice used for the decision. This article explains public information for a general fact pattern; it does not determine an individual legal, tax, medical, investment, employment or contractual outcome.

A final challenge before acting

The intended reader is a singapore household or small business buying an appliance from an overseas seller. Before closing the task, challenge the file against the common failure points below. A “not applicable” answer should still have a reason, especially where a deadline, eligibility rule, payment, booking or safety decision is involved.

- **Have you ruled this out?** Buying by brand name only. Write down the fact or document that answers it; an assumption is not a completed check.
- **Have you ruled this out?** Treating a foreign label as Singapore compliance. Write down the fact or document that answers it; an assumption is not a completed check.
- **Have you ruled this out?** Ignoring a missing COR number. Write down the fact or document that answers it; an assumption is not a completed check.
- **Have you ruled this out?** Assuming annual cost equals the bill. Write down the fact or document that answers it; an assumption is not a completed check.
- **Have you ruled this out?** Paying before checking import requirements. Write down the fact or document that answers it; an assumption is not a completed check.

Escalate any unresolved consequential point to the named authority or an appropriately qualified professional. The aim is not to collect more material; it is to identify the one missing fact that could change the result.

Questions readers ask

When did the new rules start?

NEA states 1 July 2026.

Do they cover own-use imports?

Yes, for regulated goods covered by the new requirements.

What must a visual ad show?

The Energy Label, or the stated tick rating and COR number where space is limited.

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