

New Energy Performance Standards for Air Conditioners

January 24, 2020

Source: *PIB*

The Central Government in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has notified new energy performance standards for Room Air Conditioner (RACs)

Key standards

- The 24 °C default setting has been made mandatory from Jan 1, 2020, for all room air conditioners covered under the ambit of BEE star-labelling program vide this notification.
- Additionally, the Indian Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (ISEER) as per the new standards will range from (3.30 – 5.00) for split and (2.70 – 3.50) for window air conditioners, which will be applicable from 1st January 2021 onwards
- The notification states, “All brands and types of star labelled room air conditioners, namely, Multi-Stage Capacity Air Conditioners, Unitary Air Conditioners and Split Air Conditioners which are rated from one star to five star, based on their relative energy efficiencies up to a rated cooling capacity of 10,465 Watts (9,000 kcal/hour) and manufactured, commercially purchased or sold in India, shall ensure default setting of temperature in the room air conditioners at twenty-four degrees Celsius with effect from the 1st January 2020.”

Various initiatives of BEE

- BEE launched the voluntary star labelling program for

fixed-speed room air conditioners (RACs) in 2006, and this program became mandatory on 12th January 2009.

- Thereafter, in 2015, a voluntary star labelling program for inverter room air conditioners was launched and which was made mandatory with effect from 1st January 2018.
- The BEE star labelling program for Room Air Conditioners now covers both fixed and inverter RAC up to a cooling capacity of 10,465 watts (2.97 TR). Continual enhancement in performance levels has resulted in substantial energy efficiency improvement of about 43% in the minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for split units, which are the most popular RACs sold in the market.
- **ISEER (Indian Seasonal Energy efficiency ratio) is the energy performance index used for Room Air Conditioners (RACs)** and its assessment is based on the bin hours defined in ISO 16358.

About BEE

- BEE is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It is assisted in developing policies and strategies** with the primary objective of reducing the energy intensity of the Indian economy.
- **BEE coordinates with designated consumers, designated agencies, and other organizations** to identify and utilize the existing resources and infrastructure, in performing the functions assigned to it under the energy conservation act.