

AS/NZS 4234:2021



Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Heated water systems — Calculation of energy consumption



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AS/NZS 4234:2021

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Australian/New Zealand Standard™

Heated water systems — Calculation of energy consumption

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/New Zealand Committee CS-028, Solar Heating and Cooling, to supersede AS/NZS 4234—2008.

The objective of this document is to provide methodologies to quantify the energy consumption of heated liquid systems and calculate energy savings relative to reference heaters.

Changes to the previous edition are as follows:

- (a) Additional water heating technologies based on PV water heating, variable speed heat pumps and commercial applications are included
- (b) The reference water heater systems used to quantify energy savings have been updated to current MEPS requirements; the main change being the increase from 3 star to 4 star for the gas reference water heater.
- (c) The typical meteorology year weather records have also been updated.
- (d) References to third-party software have been removed.
- (e) New requirements for assessing the suitability of software packages for the application of this document.

The performance evaluation procedure defined in this document has been designed to provide a means of evaluating the annual task performance of heated water systems.

Testing of solar and heat pump water heating systems under outdoor conditions is defined in AS 2984, *Solar water heaters—Methods of test for thermal performance—Outdoor test method*. Outdoor testing requires a long test period (8–10 weeks) due to the need to obtain stable inputs for a range of operating conditions. The major drawback of outdoor testing is that the tests must be repeated for every variation of system configuration offered by the supplier. The procedure defined in this document overcomes the time and cost limitations of using the outdoor test standard AS 2984.

The performance evaluations are based on modelling annual performance in a range of climatic conditions using a simulation program. Performance criteria are specified for simulation programs that can be used to implement the requirements of this document.

Typical meteorological year weather data files for Australia are now based on Bureau of Meteorology satellite data from 1990 to 2016. The new weather data records indicate higher solar radiation levels in Zones 1 and 4 and higher ambient temperatures in all zones compared to the terrestrial weather data (1967 to 1987) used in previous versions of this document.

NOTE Weather data files for five Australia climate zones and two New Zealand climate zones are supplied with the purchase of this document.

The weather data files for the five climate zones in Australia are supplied free of charge to users of the document by Exemplary Energy Partners. For users of the document wishing to use weather data for other sites, additional weather data files can be obtained from www.exemplary.com.au/solar_climate_data/solar-radiation-data.php

This document evaluates the performance of water heating technologies such as Solar Thermal Collectors, Heat pumps, photovoltaic arrays, thermal storage tanks (which can incorporate integral gas or electric resistance element boosting) and in-line supplementary heating utilizing gas or electric energy sources.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

Where *shall* is used in this Standard, this indicates that a requirement is to be followed strictly in order to conform to the Standard. Where *should* is used, it is to be interpreted as a recommendation; a recommendation is not required to be followed in order to conform to the Standard.

Contents

Preface	ii
Section 1 Scope and general	1
1.1 Scope	1
1.2 Application	1
1.3 Normative references	2
1.4 Terms and definitions	3
1.5 Notation	7
Section 2 Component testing	9
2.1 Scope of section	9
2.2 Water heater technology types	9
2.2.1 Solar thermal collector systems	9
2.2.2 Pump flow and power consumption	9
2.2.3 Air-source heat pump systems	10
2.2.4 Photovoltaic water heaters	11
2.3 Storage tank types	11
2.3.1 Electric resistive heated, unboosted and heat pump storage tanks	11
2.3.2 Gas-boosted storage vessels	12
2.4 In line water heater types	12
2.4.1 Instantaneous gas water heaters	12
2.4.2 In line instantaneous electric water heater	13
2.5 Solar-boosted heat pump storage water heaters	13
2.6 Solar collector	13
2.6.1 Collector efficiency	13
2.6.2 Incidence angle modifier	14
2.6.3 Collector efficiency correction for shadowing due to impact guard	15
2.7 Air source heat pump	15
2.7.1 Heat pump COP and electric power use	15
2.7.2 Additional tests for variable capacity compressors	17
2.7.3 Testing requirements for commercial heat pump water heaters	18
2.8 Domestic water heater configuration	18
Section 3 Performance evaluation of domestic water heaters	20
3.1 Performance evaluation simulation program	20
3.2 Weather data	21
3.3 Domestic thermal energy loads	21
3.4 Domestic electrical energy consumption	21
3.5 Domestic hot water load selection	22
3.5.1 Water heaters with grid electric or gas supplementary heating	22
3.5.2 Water heaters with heat pump supplementary heating	22
3.6 Water temperature	22
3.6.1 Control of temperature	22
3.6.2 Legionella control	22
3.6.3 Minimum delivery temperature	22
3.7 Cold water inlet temperature	23
Section 4 Modelling domestic water heaters	24
4.1 General	24
4.2 Thermal stratification and mixing in hot water storage tanks	25
4.2.1 General	25
4.2.2 Low-flow criteria	25
4.2.3 Controlled-flow pumped circulation	25
4.2.4 Uncontrolled-flow pumped circulation	26
4.2.5 External collector loop heat exchanger systems	26
4.2.6 Pump controllers	26
4.3 Modelling thermal stratification in storage tanks	26

4.3.1	General.....	26
4.3.2	Controlled flow-rate pumped circulation.....	26
4.3.3	Thermosiphon circulation.....	27
4.3.4	Uncontrolled flow-rate pumped circulation.....	27
4.3.5	Heat exchanger tanks.....	27
4.3.6	In-tank electric resistive heating from grid or PV power.....	27
4.4	Piping configuration for solar thermal water heaters.....	28
4.4.1	Collector loop piping.....	28
4.4.2	Collector loop piping insulation.....	28
4.4.3	Piping between primary storage tank and a series booster.....	28
4.5	Piping configuration for standalone heat pump.....	29
4.6	Energy consumed for freeze protection of solar and heat pump water heaters.....	29
4.6.1	Active pumped freeze protection.....	29
4.6.2	Electric heater freeze protection.....	29
4.7	Over-temperature control.....	30
4.7.1	General.....	30
4.7.2	Hot water discharge due to over-temperature.....	30
4.7.3	Vented system energy dumping.....	30
4.8	Modelling heat pump water heaters.....	30
4.8.1	Standard operating conditions.....	30
4.8.2	Standby electrical power.....	30
4.8.3	Water flow rate for standalone heat pumps.....	30
4.8.4	Low ambient temperature operation.....	30
4.8.5	Output for air temperature above lowest temperature test condition.....	31
4.8.6	Output for air temperature below lowest temperature test condition.....	33
4.9	Modelling gas storage water heaters.....	35
4.10	Modelling instantaneous gas water heaters.....	35
4.11	Modelling instantaneous electric water heaters.....	37
4.12	Modelling of PV water heaters.....	38
4.13	Modelling of indirect coupled PV water heaters.....	39
4.14	Modelling solar-boosted heat pump water heaters.....	39
4.14.1	General.....	39
4.14.2	Compressor performance.....	40
4.14.3	Solar-boosted evaporator.....	40
4.14.4	Heat gain from condensation.....	41
4.14.5	Heat pump condenser.....	42
4.14.6	Solution procedure.....	43
Section 5	Performance evaluation of commercial liquid heating systems.....	44
5.1	General.....	44
5.2	Standardized annual task performance.....	44
5.3	Weather data.....	44
5.4	Commercial thermal energy load.....	44
5.5	Liquid temperature.....	44
5.5.1	Legionella control for drinking water.....	44
5.5.2	Minimum delivery temperature for drinking water.....	44
5.5.3	Process heat systems.....	44
5.6	Cold water inlet temperature.....	45
5.6.1	Drinking water system.....	45
5.6.2	Open loop load system with partial recirculation.....	45
5.6.3	Closed loop load system.....	45
5.7	Reference water heaters for commercial systems.....	45
5.7.1	General.....	45
5.7.2	Electric-boosted products.....	45
5.7.3	Gas-boosted products.....	45
Section 6	Modelling commercial liquid heating systems (all types).....	46
6.1	General.....	46
6.2	Solar collector array configuration.....	46

6.3	Storage tank heat loss.....	46
6.3.1	General.....	46
6.3.2	Tank standing heat loss calculation.....	46
6.4	Storage tank stratification for booster recirculation loop.....	47
6.5	Collector loop fluid flow rate.....	47
6.5.1	General.....	47
6.5.2	Hydraulic circuit analysis	47
6.5.3	Flow rate calculation procedure.....	47
Section 7	Test report.....	50
7.1	Product description.....	50
7.2	Simulation software features and validation.....	50
7.3	Calculation of annual energy savings relative to reference water heaters.....	50
7.4	Calculation of carbon dioxide equivalent emission from heated water systems (if required)	50
7.5	Presentation of results.....	51
7.6	Simulation files.....	52
Appendix A	(normative) Standard domestic operating conditions for Australia	53
Appendix B	(normative) Standard operating conditions for New Zealand.....	62
Appendix C	(normative) Water heater parameters.....	70
Appendix D	(normative) Corrections for effect of impact guards on solar collector efficiency.....	80
Appendix E	(normative) Calculation of tank heat loss	82
Appendix F	(Informative) Calculation of performance at other hot water loads.....	87
Bibliography	88

Australian/New Zealand Standard

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Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out a method for evaluating the annual energy performance of water heaters using a combination of test results for component performance and mathematical models to determine the standardized annual supplementary energy use.

This document may be used for both domestic and commercial systems, including recirculated hot water systems. For commercial applications, the systems modelled may deliver heat through fluids other than water.

The procedures may be used for solar and heat pump water heaters (HPWHs) with or without integral gas or electric boosting and may be coupled to conventional storage or instantaneous water heater(s) when used as solar pre-heater(s). Solar energy sources considered are —

- (a) solar irradiance which is used in solar thermal collector applications;
- (b) photovoltaic array applications; and
- (c) air-sourced heat that is used for heat pump applications.

The calculations in this document also cover the displaced purchased energy relative to reference water heaters.

NOTE Solar and solar-boosted HPWH types not covered in this document may be tested under AS 2984 to obtain an annual performance assessment.

This document does not include product design or operation requirements, however for the purpose of rating it does specify minimum savings and water temperature delivery requirements used to select simulated thermal load size.

1.2 Application

The procedure in this document uses mathematical models to assess annual water heating systems; hence the application of the procedure is restricted by the availability of suitable mathematical models. The analysis required by this document is based on numerical simulation of water heaters powered by conventional electrical and gas energy, solar energy and heat pumps.

The numerical simulation model shall use the weather data, hot water load levels, electrical load data and modelling requirements specified in this document.

The operating conditions and product configurations to be used for evaluating the annual energy performance of a water heater are defined in this document.

This document may be used for evaluating the following water heaters:

- (a) Electric and gas storage water heaters.
- (b) Electric and gas instantaneous water heaters.
- (c) Solar water heater systems with a combination of any of the following:
 - (i) Flat plate, concentrating or evacuated tubular solar collectors.
 - (ii) Photovoltaic arrays.
 - (iii) Thermosiphon or pumped fluid circulation through the solar collectors.

- (iv) Collector loop heat exchangers in a thermosiphon loop.
- (v) Horizontal or vertical water storage tanks.
- (vi) Storage tanks with single or multiple electric element(s).
- (vii) Storage tanks with internal gas boosting.
- (viii) Storage tanks with heat pump boosting.
- (ix) Storage tanks with delivery side heat exchangers.
- (d) Solar preheaters in series with electric or gas storage or instantaneous boosters.
- (e) Solar-boosted heat pump water heaters with —
 - (i) solar collectors acting as the refrigerant evaporator;
 - (ii) water cooled condenser; and
 - (iii) in-tank electric booster.
- (f) Air-source heat pump water heaters with —
 - (i) internal tank condensers;
 - (ii) external wrap-around, or in-wall embedded tank condensers; and
 - (iii) external condensers, circulating water into one or more tanks.

Other water heater configurations incorporating the above components may also be modelled.

NOTE 1 If it is not possible to model the product using a simulation program, then the product may be rated using AS 2984.

NOTE 2 In some instances, test data produced through physical test procedures that measure the performance of a system when it delivers hot water (e.g. AS/NZS 5125.1:2014 or AS 2984) may assist in developing a simulation program to assess its accuracy.

1.3 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 3498, *Safety and public health requirements for plumbing products — Water heaters and hot-water storage tanks*

AS 4552, *Gas fired water heaters for hot water supply and/or central heating*

AS/NZS 2535.1, *Test methods for solar collectors, Part 1: Thermal performance of glazed liquid heating collectors including pressure drop (ISO 9806-1:1994, MOD)*

AS/NZS 2712, *Solar and heat pump water heaters—Design and construction*

AS/NZS 4692.1, *Electric water heaters, Part 1: Energy consumption, performance and general requirements*

AS/NZS 4692.2, *Electric water heaters, Part 2: Minimum Energy Performance Standard (MEPS) requirements and energy labelling*

AS/NZS 5033:2014, *Installation and safety requirements for photovoltaic (PV) arrays*