

Fuel Economy Labels: A guide for motor vehicle traders



Overview

- If you are a motor vehicle trader, you must put a Fuel Economy Label on cars you are selling if a label is available (from **www.fuelsaver.govt.nz**).
- This includes new and used cars, utes and vans 3.5 tonnes and under.
- You get the label from the website **www.fuelsaver.govt.nz**
- See pages 6-7 of this guidebook for a step-by-step guide to using the website.
- Some cars may already have labels when you get them. You will need to check it's the right label for the car.
- If you use MotorWeb to print a CIN (consumer information notice), then the label will be produced automatically at the same time. Other service providers may also offer this service.
- If you're offering a car for sale on the internet, then you have to provide the fuel economy information for that car as text (written words).
- Major websites such as Trade Me and AutoTrader will do this automatically.
- If you have your own website, you will need to make sure you show the required fuel economy information.
- If there's no fuel economy information about the car on **www.fuelsaver.govt.nz** then the car doesn't require a label.
- The information on the label is a guide, not a guarantee. It can help car buyers compare different vehicles.
- The cost per year, star rating and litres per 100km can all be used by car buyers to compare different vehicles, makes and models.
- Need to know more? Call **0800 358 676** or email **fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz**

Vehicle Fuel Economy Labelling - the facts

The Energy Efficiency (Vehicle Fuel Economy Labelling) Regulations

Under the regulations, motor vehicle traders must:

- display fuel economy information on a Fuel Economy Label for any motor vehicle offered for sale or displayed to promote the sale of another vehicle of the same or similar type.
- display fuel economy information for any motor vehicle offered or displayed for sale on websites, where the principal purpose is to offer goods for sale.

The regulations apply to all used and new light vehicles including cars, utes and vans 3.5 tonnes GVW and under, manufactured from 2000, where the information is available from the Fuelsaver website. Exceptions are motorcycles and vehicles over 3.5 tonnes.

Private sellers must display fuel economy information for any motor vehicle offered or displayed for sale on websites, where the principal purpose of the website is to offer goods for sale.

Fuel economy information has been collected for all vehicles manufactured since 2000 and imported since 2005. If a vehicle was imported before 2005, fuel economy information may or may not be available.

You should always check for the fuel economy information on www.fuelsaver.govt.nz because if the information is available, then you must display it.

What information do I have to display?

The fuel economy information you have to display is available via the Fuelsaver website - www.fuelsaver.govt.nz

The fuel economy information is displayed is:

- vehicle make
- vehicle model
- fuel economy - cost per year
- fuel economy - rating out of 6 stars
- fuel economy - litres per 100km
- fuel economy - cost per year
- reference details.

The fuel economy information is printed on a **Fuel Economy Label**. This must be displayed with the vehicle for sale or with any vehicle that is used to promote the sale of a vehicle of the same or similar type (e.g. demonstration vehicles).

In the case of vehicles offered for sale on **websites** (including your motor vehicle dealer website or internet trading sites such as Trade Me), the fuel economy information must be clearly displayed as text (written words) with the vehicle's listing. This includes both auction listings and "classified" listings.

It is important to remember that the fuel economy information is provided for **comparative purposes only**. It does not represent a guarantee or exact measurement of vehicle performance.

The label

What does the label look like?

The label must be a minimum size of 196mm wide and 136mm high (A5 size), but can be larger. It can be printed and displayed either in full colour or black and white. All labels must be in this format and style, you cannot create your own version.



Fuel economy stars - rated out of 6, this indicates how much fuel the vehicle uses. The more stars, the more economical it is.

Litres per 100km - fuel consumption figure expressed in litres per 100km based on independent testing of the vehicle when new. Note that this will only be shown for new vehicles.

Cost per year - estimated annual fuel economy cost based on an average fuel price and an annual distance of 14,000km. It includes Road User Charges (RUC) for diesel vehicles. This is calculated to help car buyers compare one vehicle with another. It does not tell

you what you will actually pay because it's based on averages, not your actual vehicle use.

Vehicle make and model - this provides details on the make and model of the vehicle.

Fuelsaver.govt.nz - the website you can go to for more information.

Reference number - this confirms that the label refers to the vehicle it's displayed with.

Average fuel price - used to calculate the cost per year. Fuel prices change but as long as the fuel price is the same for all labels then car buyers can compare vehicles.

Disclaimer - important note about the status of the information on the label. This clarifies that the information is provided for comparative purposes only and is not the actual cost of running the vehicle.

How do I get a label?

You can get a label from a number of sources:

- Downloaded and printed directly from the Fuelsaver website - www.fuelsaver.govt.nz. It can be easily printed onto ordinary paper in either colour or black and white. See pages 6-7 for a step-by-step guide to using the website.
- Produced and printed as part of the package provided by your dealer management system provider.
- If you use MotorWeb, the label will be produced automatically when printing a CIN. Other service providers may also offer this service.
- Delivered along with the vehicle from the manufacturer/distributor.
- Delivered along with the vehicle when the vehicle is imported (if the importer prints the label along with the fuel consumption statement).

Talk to your support service providers about what they are doing to help you meet your obligations.

How do I display the label?

It is your responsibility as a motor vehicle trader to ensure the label is completed accurately and displayed with the vehicle for sale or any vehicle being used to promote the sale of other vehicles of the same or similar type.

You must:

- Display the label clearly and prominently so that it obviously relates to the vehicle for sale
- Display the label so it can be read from a reasonable distance.

For example, you could do this by:

- firmly attaching it to the vehicle so it is clearly visible from the outside in the same way as you display the CIN
- putting it on the dashboard provided it is clearly visible
- displaying it on an information stand next to the vehicle.

It is NOT acceptable to put the label in places such as in the glove-box or the boot, loose on the seat, or on the back of any other displays.

If the label gets faded, ripped or otherwise damaged, so it can no longer be read from a reasonable distance, then you will need to replace it.

Once the vehicle has been sold, the label can be removed. It is not intended to be permanent.

What do I have to do about internet listings?

Where you are offering a vehicle for sale on a trading website, you must display the fuel economy information.

Trading websites include motor vehicle trader websites and internet trading sites such as Trade Me or AutoTrader. This applies to both auction listings and “classified” listings.

For internet listings you do not have to display the label itself, but the fuel economy information must be clearly shown as text (written words).

The fields required are:

- star rating
- litres per 100 km (where available)
- cost per year
- make and model details.

A website listing could look like this:

Make and model:	TOYOTA ECHO 1.3P HATCH
Year:	2004
Star rating:	5 stars out of 6
Yearly cost:	\$1,260
Fuel economy:	5.8 LITRES PER 100KM
Reference:	ABC123

You may be able to set up an automatic interface between your own website and the database that holds the fuel economy information. Email fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz for more information.

The main internet trading sites will have systems in place to enable the fuel economy information to be displayed automatically with the vehicle listing.

You must:

- Ensure the fuel economy information is shown clearly and prominently on the same webpage as the vehicle
- Ensure that the text can be easily read
- Ensure the information is placed so that it obviously relates to the vehicle being promoted for sale.

Generating a vehicle Fuel Economy Label

GETTING READY

1. Prepare

Have ready the details of the car you want a label for:

- Make
- Model
- Reference number

The reference number could be the plate number, VIN, model code or chassis number.

You only need one of these, and it's likely that the plate number or VIN will be easiest to get.

2. Log on

Log onto the internet www.fuelsaver.govt.nz

Click on the “Fuel Economy Label” button on the right hand side.

CREATING YOUR LABEL

4. Enter details

Enter either the plate number (registration number), VIN, model code or chassis number.

The screenshot shows the 'Fuel economy label generator' website. It has a search bar and four radio button options: 'Plate', 'VIN', 'Model Code', and 'Chassis number'. The 'Plate' option is selected. Below the options are input fields for each. There are also buttons for 'Full colour', 'Display fuel label', and 'Get fuel information text'. A hand cursor is pointing to the 'Plate' radio button.

5. Display

Select a display option (a label if you want to put it on a car, or text information for use in a website listing or elsewhere) and click on the button.

PRINTING YOUR LABEL

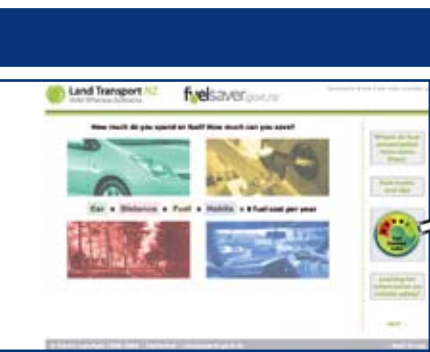
7. Get ready to print

To print a label, you'll first need to create a PDF (a particular type of electronic file) by clicking on the button “Create PDF for printing”.

For this step, you'll need to have a programme called Adobe Reader installed on your computer.

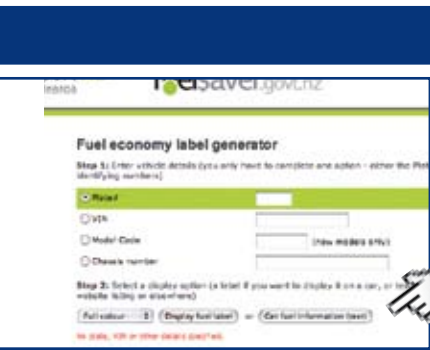
If you don't have it, find the link on the page that says Download the Adobe Reader. You'll only need to download Adobe Reader once.

The screenshot shows a generated fuel economy label. It features a star rating of 10.0, a fuel consumption of 2.170 L/100km, and a CO2 emission of 10.0 g/km. The label is for a Nissan X-TRAIL 2.0i ST 4x4. Below the label, there is a button for 'Create PDF for printing' and a link to 'Download the Adobe Reader'. A hand cursor is pointing to the 'Create PDF for printing' button.



3. Go to page

Go to the page for “Traders, manufacturers and importers” and click on “Get a label”.



6. Check

Check that the make, model and reference number match your car. If it's not right, try entering the details of the car again, checking that you have them correct.

If you've entered the details correctly and you get a message on the screen saying the label or information is not available, then you do not have to do anything else.

7. Get ready to print

On the toolbar at the top of your computer screen, click on the Print icon, in the same way you normally would.

The label should print out on a standard A4 sheet of paper, but the label itself will be A5 size, so it will only take up half the page.

Need help with the website?
 Phone 0800 358 676 or email fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz

Need help with your computer/printer/IT system?
 Write the name and number of your IT support person here

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Further helpful information

1 When did the Energy Efficiency (Vehicle Fuel Economy Labelling) Regulations 2007 come into effect?

Monday, 7 April 2008.

2 What happens if the Fuelsaver website doesn't give me the information and/or print me a label?

If no information or rating is available for a particular vehicle on the Fuelsaver website, then no label is required. You may wish to note which vehicles have no information available, for future reference. It is also worth checking www.fuelsaver.govt.nz from time to time to see if information has been added.

3 Which vehicles are required to display the fuel economy rating and label?

Fuel Economy Labelling applies to both new and used light vehicles including cars, utes and vans 3.5 tonnes GVW and under, where the information is available from the Fuelsaver website www.fuelsaver.govt.nz

The information should generally be available for vehicles manufactured since 2000, but there may be some exceptions. You should always check because if the information's there, then you must display it.

The regulations apply to vehicles for sale or displayed to promote the sale of another vehicle of the same or similar type. e.g. promotional vehicles.

Promotional vehicles include those displayed in a showroom or car sales yard; in demonstrations or at event promotions.

4 Which vehicles are exempt?

Motorcycles and vehicles over 3.5 tonnes.

Vehicles for which the information is not available on www.fuelsaver.govt.nz are also exempt.

The information may not be available for vehicles imported prior to 2005, or imported from countries other than Japan.

You should always check because if the information's there, then you must display it.

5 How many vehicles are there fuel information for?

Fuel economy information is collected and entered into the Fuelsaver database for all new cars and all cars manufactured since 2000 and imported since 2005. This is a large proportion of the vehicles being traded in New Zealand, and the proportion will increase as time goes on.

6 Where does the information in the database come from?

Fuel consumption information based on independent testing is provided by the manufacturers and/or importers of vehicles, to the New Zealand Transport Agency.

The fuel consumption information for new vehicles is obtained using a European test procedure that has also been adopted in Australia. Fuel consumption data for used Japanese vehicles is obtained using a Japanese test procedure. In both cases, this is then converted to a fuel economy star rating.

Further detail about the testing is available on www.fuelsaver.govt.nz The same database is also used for the Rightcar website www.rightcar.govt.nz which also provides information about safety ratings and carbon dioxide emissions.

7 What do I do if I think the fuel consumption information is wrong?

The fuel consumption information is provided by the manufacturers and/or importers of vehicles. If you have other information that shows a different fuel consumption figure for the same vehicle, please let us know by emailing fuel.economy@eecca.govt.nz

8 What if the database has the details of the car wrong?

If there's clearly a mistake in the database, for example if you enter the plate number of a Ford and get a label for a Holden, then please let us know by emailing fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz. But first, please double check that you have entered the details correctly.

9 If a vehicle has an Australian fuel economy label, do I have to get a New Zealand label as well?

Vehicles produced in or imported directly from Australia can be sold in New Zealand with their Australian label, if they have one, provided they are also labelled with a statement to the effect that they were produced in or imported from Australia or a State of Australia.

The car would have to have been in Australia prior to being shipped to New Zealand - not just on a ship in transit in an Australian port. This is covered by the Trans Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) and there's more information available at www.med.govt.nz/ttmra. If the vehicle does not have an Australian label, then a New Zealand label must be displayed, provided the information is available.

10 What about vehicles imported from countries other than Australia or Japan?

You should check to see if fuel economy information is available for these vehicles. If the information is available, they will require a label. If the information is not available, then a label is not required.

11 Who is responsible for ensuring the fuel economy information or label appears with a vehicle for sale?

- Motor vehicle traders selling new and/or used vehicles; and
- Private individuals selling vehicles on websites whose main purpose is to offer goods for sale.

12 Who is defined as a motor vehicle trader?

Any person whose business is motor vehicle trading and includes:

- a car market operator
- an importer
- a wholesaler
- a car auctioneer
- a car consultant.

A person is regarded as a motor vehicle trader if they carry out the business of motor vehicle trading. They will also be regarded as a motor vehicle trader if they sell more than six vehicles in a 12 month period or import more than three vehicles in 12 months, unless they can prove they are not doing so for gain. This is the same definition as in the Motor Vehicle Sales Act 2003.

13 What happens if I don't comply with the regulations?

Your obligation is to display the information or the label, using the information provided on the Fuelsaver website www.fuelsaver.govt.nz

If you don't have a label with a vehicle for sale, or the fuel economy information with its website listing, then you may be liable for a fine of up to \$5,000.

It is illegal to interfere with or change the fuel economy information or label so that it no longer complies, or is inconsistent with the information provided through the Fuelsaver website. However, you will not be committing an offence if the information provided by the website is incorrect and you have not intended to mislead.

Further helpful information

14 Can I choose to use the label and fuel economy information for other promotional purposes - such as on print advertisements promoting the sale of a vehicle?

Yes, you can use the label or information as long as this appears in a way that is approved by EECA.

It must be displayed correctly and consistently with how it is presented in other display methods such as website listings.

If you want to discuss other ways to use the information or label, contact the fuel economy advisor at EECA on **0800 358 676**, or email fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz

15 Can I create my own version of the label?

No, you must display a label in the form set out in the regulations. If you want to print large quantities of labels (for example, manufacturers wanting to provide labels with new cars) contact the fuel economy advisor at EECA on **0800 358 676**, or email fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz to get an electronic file of the template.

16 Do I have to make changes to my website?

You must display the fuel economy information when offering a car for sale on a website. It is possible to set up an automatic interface between your website and the database that holds the fuel economy information. If you are interested in doing this, contact the fuel economy advisor at EECA on **0800 358 676**, or email fuel.economy@eeca.govt.nz

17 How is the fuel economy rating worked out?

The fuel economy rating is based on independent testing. Vehicles in New Zealand are tested to either the European (typically new cars) or Japanese (typically used cars) test methods.

The test results translate into a simple star rating out of 6. There is one rating scale for all vehicles, from six stars for vehicles that use less fuel to a half star for the biggest gas guzzlers.

The average fuel price used in the fuel economy rating calculation will be reviewed each year, although it will only be changed if there's been a big move in actual fuel prices.

It is not practical to change the information on the label every time the fuel price goes up or down. So an annual average has been used as a basis for comparison.

The distance people travel also varies considerably, so an average of 14,000km (used by the AA and Department of Inland Revenue), has been used in the calculation as a reasonable basis for comparison.

18 What happens if the price of fuel at the pump changes? Will the fuel economy information and labels have to be updated?

The fuel price on the labels, used to calculate the cost per year, is an average figure, so it does not have to be updated every time the price at the pump changes.

The average fuel price used on the label will be updated from time to time, probably about once every 12 months.

At times of volatility with the fuel price at the pump, the average price used on the label will be monitored. Once the fuel price has become stable, it will be reviewed again.

When the average fuel price used on the label is to be updated, motor vehicle traders will be notified in advance, so that labels and information can be updated and replaced by a given date.

The information will be updated in the database used for generating labels and online listings, so that these will automatically reflect the new values from the given date.

19 Why has Fuel Economy Labelling been introduced?

The labelling is intended to make it easier for consumers to choose a vehicle that uses less fuel. Recent research shows New Zealanders are becoming increasingly concerned about environmental issues and understand that their cars have an effect, so want to know how they can reduce their fuel consumption and impact on the environment.

Over time it will contribute towards a reduction in New Zealand's fuel use and subsequent greenhouse gas emissions.

10 Who else can I ask for help or more information on energy efficient vehicles?

Information about the fuel consumption and annual fuel costs of most vehicles is available at www.fuelsaver.govt.nz

Further information on fuel economy, vehicle safety, carbon dioxide emissions and rankings, pollution ratings and tips on buying fuel efficient vehicles, can be found at www.rightcar.govt.nz This site includes easy-to-use tools that allow you to search different makes and models, and compare fuel, safety and environmental impact ratings. It also includes tips on driving more energy efficiently.

21 What should I tell customers?

The fuel economy rating and information is based on independent testing and one rating scale for all vehicles - from six stars for vehicles that use less fuel to half a star for the biggest gas guzzlers.

The information is indicative only and not an exact measurement or guarantee of vehicle performance.

It is useful for customers as it easily allows them to compare the potential cost efficiency of a particular vehicle they wish to buy, with other vehicles.

A brochure is available for free from EECA for you to give to your customers. This outlines the facts about fuel economy information and labelling. You can also refer them to the websites www.fuelsaver.govt.nz or www.rightcar.govt.nz for more information.

22 Does the fuel economy information take into account variables, such as vehicle modifications or wear and tear?

No allowances are made in the fuel economy information database for individual vehicles that have undergone modifications, or for wear and tear. The information is based on fuel consumption when the vehicle is tested in laboratory conditions. The information and rating still provides a useful comparison for customers because the same rating system has been applied across all vehicles.

To find out more visit www.fuelsaver.govt.nz



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