Accelerated Capital Allowances Eligibility Criteria

Category: Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Technology: ICT Optimisation Solutions

ICT Optimisation Solutions are defined as systems and/or software that improve the power efficiency of enterprise ICT hardware systems and/or of ICT-related infrastructure resources.

ICT Optimisation Solutions are considered to include the following:

ICT power efficiency systems

ICT power efficiency systems are designed to automatically and continuously identify under-use of installed ICT hardware (e.g. servers), and facilitate their optimisation, with the aim of reducing overall power consumption.

Virtualisation solutions

Virtualisation solutions are software platforms that allow multiple OS applications to run simultaneously on one physical machine, with the aim of reducing the number of physical machines required.

Infrastructure power efficiency systems

Infrastructure power efficiency systems are designed to visually map, automate and optimise ICT-related infrastructure resources such as cooling, power and space, with the aim of reducing overall power consumption.

Eligibility criteria

To be included on the ACA Specified List, the specific ICT Optimisation Solution must meet *all* the relevant requirements as set out below.

Note: *Supporting documentation that clearly demonstrates ACA compliance according to the conditions below will be required as part of the ACA checking process. Detailed information on the types of documents accepted can be found in the separate Supporting Documentation guidelines.*

ICT Power Efficiency Systems – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition
1	Must have the capability of continuously collecting utilisation data from IT equipment using RS232, Ethernet or wireless connectivity
2	Must have the capability of identifying power-saving opportunities and outputting commands to a power management system

3	Must have the capability of presenting utilisation data in a graphical format, and calculating and presenting performance metrics

Virtualisation Solutions – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition
4	Must be capable of virtualising from a physical server to a virtual system.* The host physical server must be capable of accommodating a minimum of 20 virtual servers.
5	Physical servers, where included in the solution, must meet the separate ACA Enterprise Server eligibility criteria
6	Must be capable of powering down virtual machines and provisioning dynamically

Infrastructure Power Efficiency Systems – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition
7	Must offer visual modelling of the physical, electrical and mechanical infrastructure within the data centre
8	Must offer a capacity management and infrastructure management capability
9	Must offer a data-centre efficiency reporting capability

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---------- *End of ACA eligibility criteria* ----------

Please see next section for guidance on:

1. **Technical details required in product submission**
2. **Supporting documentation required**

* Physical to Virtual is often termed P2V.

Guidance on product details and supporting documentation

NOTE: The following information is not part of the official criteria document published within the relevant Statutory Instrument. It has been added here for guidance purposes only in order to help you to provide (a) product details and (b) the required supporting documentation.

All information contained in this guidance document is subject to change without notice.

Technical information required in product submission

The following are the specific technical values required as part of the product submission for this technology:

ICT Optimisation product type

As part of the product submission you must select which type your product is. Only one type can be chosen per submitted product. The equipment must be one of the following types.

- ICT Power Efficiency System
- Virtualisation Solution
- Infrastructure Power Efficiency System

Supporting documentation required

Described below is the list of documents that are accepted as proof of compliance for the specific ICT Optimisation Solutions.

Note: This information will only be requested AFTER you submit your product's basic details online

<u>Important Notes to Product Providers</u>
Please ensure that you read the "Important Notes for Product Providers" section at the end of this document prior to submitting documentation.

Enterprise IT Power Efficiency Systems – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition	Supporting Documentation Requirement
1.	Must have the capability of continuously collecting utilisation data from IT equipment using RS232, Ethernet or wireless connectivity	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.
2.	Must have the capability of identifying power-saving opportunities and outputting commands to a power management system	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.
3.	Must have the capability of presenting utilisation data in a graphical format, and calculating and presenting performance metrics	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.

Virtualisation Solutions – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition	Supporting Documentation Requirement
4.	Must be capable of virtualising from a physical server to a virtual system.[†] The host physical server must be capable of accommodating a minimum of 20 virtual servers.	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.
5.	Physical servers, where included in the solution, must meet the separate ACA Enterprise Server eligibility criteria	Refer to the ACA Enterprise Server supporting documentation requirements.

[†] Physical to Virtual is often termed P2V.

No.	Condition	Supporting Documentation Requirement
6.	Must be capable of powering down virtual machines and provisioning dynamically	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.

Infrastructure Power Efficiency Systems – specific eligibility criteria

No.	Condition	Supporting Documentation Requirement
7.	Must offer visual modelling of the physical, electrical and mechanical infrastructure within the data centre	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.
8.	Must offer a capacity management and infrastructure management capability	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.
9.	Must offer a data-centre efficiency reporting capability	Official and published manufacturer's technical data sheet or brochure that demonstrates the requirements of the condition.

Important notes for product providers

General

There should be a clear link between the product submitted and all supporting documentation. This will typically take the form of a *product code* or *product name* that can be cross-referenced between the submitted product and the relevant supporting documentation.

If product codes/names have been changed since publication of the supporting documentation, then you must provide official evidence of this with the supporting documentation supplied.

If there is any deviation from these requirements, the supporting documentation will not be considered adequate for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with the criteria conditions. This will in turn delay the submission and/or result in the product not being considered eligible.

Where the ACA criteria or help documentation makes reference to compliance with appropriate rather than specific standards, the onus is on the product provider to ensure that the supporting documentation supplied references recognised standards that apply to the submitted product, i.e. the product must be covered under the scope of a recognised standard.

If it is subsequently found that any product submitted does not meet the performance or specification criteria, it will cease to be considered eligible for the ACA.

Note: When supplying the supporting documentation through the online process, you must ensure, when demonstrating compliance with the relevant condition, that the correct page number(s) of the document is referenced. When referencing more than one page number, add an explanatory note.

Test report

A test report must include an outline of the complete test, including:

- √ Introduction
- √ Details on test conditions
- √ The specific model details of the product tested
- √ The steps taken in the test
- √ The results
- √ Graphical representations
- √ Conclusion

All documents should be on headed paper and the document should be officially signed off. **All documentation must be in English**, or include adequate translation.

Certification

Where certificates are provided, all tests must be carried out by an organisation that is accredited by a national accreditation body, recognised via the European

Cooperation for Accreditation (preferred) or the International Accreditation Forum. **All documentation must be in English**, or include adequate translation.

Scientific equivalence

Some ACA criteria conditions allow for scientifically equivalent tests and/or standards to be used.

If a product has not been designed, manufactured or tested to the specific standard named, then documentation relating to an equivalent internationally recognised standard may be used, where the phrase '*or scientific equivalent*' is included in the ACA condition or help documentation.

In such applications, the onus is on the product submitter to demonstrate satisfactory equivalence of the standards. Submissions which reference such supporting documentation may take longer to process. If the product provider does not provide satisfactory evidence of equivalence, then the product will not be considered eligible for the ACA. **All documentation must be in English**, or include adequate translation.

Note: Where specific standards are cited in a condition or in the ACA help documentation, then documentation demonstrating that the relevant products have been designed, manufactured or tested to these specific standards is preferred. Scientific equivalence is considered the exception rather than the norm.

Representative testing

Where test information is required for a range of technically similar products (e.g. configurations of one base product), then – in exceptional instances – a form of representative testing may be used once *agreed in advance* with SEAI.

Such testing is where only representative products are tested from a technically similar group or range of products. Representative testing may form an acceptable basis for supporting documentation if:

- A clear correlation can be demonstrated between the tested product and a technically similar non-tested product

  and

- Such a correlation clearly demonstrates the compliance of the non-tested product

Note: Where representative testing is used for a group or range of products, if the tested or representative product is removed from the list of eligible products then all related products are also removed.