

COMBINED WASHBASIN/WASHTUBS

Purpose

This Newsflash clarifies the requirements of the BCA regarding the provision of washbasins and washtubs in class 1, 2 and 4 buildings.

Legislation

The performance provisions of BCA Volumes 1 and 2 are similar in that “suitable sanitary facilities for personal hygiene must be provided in a convenient location within or associated with a building, appropriate to its function or use.”

The deemed-to-satisfy solutions of both volumes include the provision of a washbasin and a washtub.

Issues

It is normal practice for separate fixtures to be provided. However, building certifiers may permit the use of a combined washbasin/washtub under the performance provisions of the BCA. These combined fixtures are larger than regular basins and have a washing machine bypass facility. They typically have a capacity of 30 litres or more and a depth exceeding 250 mm, to facilitate clothes washing.

The Department of Health has advised these combined fixtures should not pose a major health risk, provided the washing machine outlet bypasses and does not discharge into the basin.

Acceptable solutions

Where an application is made to use a combined washbasin/washtub as an alternative solution, the following issues need to be considered in assessing whether the proposal meets the performance provisions:

- the convenience of the location of the fixture in relation to other sanitary facilities such as a toilet;
- whether the capacity and depth of the fixture is sufficient to enable it to be used as a washtub; and
- whether the fixture is fitted with a washing machine bypass facility.

