

Building and Plumbing Newsflash 514

Commencement of new building and plumbing laws to support the repeal of mandatory energy efficient hot water systems and water savings targets (rainwater tanks)

Purpose

To advise that from 1 February 2013, laws mandating the installation of energy efficient hot water systems, rainwater tanks and other water saving systems have been repealed.

Background

[Newsflash 513](#) announced government's decision to repeal laws requiring mandatory inclusion of rain water tanks and energy efficient hot water systems in building and plumbing codes. Local governments will be able to 'opt-in' to water saving requirements, provided they can demonstrate a deliverable net benefit to their local community.

Amended codes

Rainwater tanks

The mandatory requirements for the installation of rainwater tanks or another water saving system (such as a grey water treatment plant) for new houses and similar requirements for commercial and industrial buildings, have been repealed.

Those who choose to voluntarily install a water saving system, or who are located in a local government area that opted-in to water savings requirements, will still need to comply with the requirements in the Queensland Development Code (QDC).

The amendments QDC MP 4.2 – *Rainwater tanks and other supplementary water supply systems* (formerly QDC MP 4.2 – *Water savings targets*) and QDC MP 4.3 – *Supplementary water sources – commercial buildings* (formerly QDC MP 4.3 – *Alternative water sources – commercial buildings*) commenced on 1 February 2013. QDC MP 4.2 and 4.3 ensure that water saving systems are properly installed and continue to meet health and safety standards.

Hot water systems

The mandatory requirements to install energy efficient hot water systems in new houses and existing houses located in a gas reticulated area have been repealed. Home owners can now install a hot water system that best suits their circumstances.

The Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code has been amended to remove the requirements to install an energy efficient hot water system. Additionally, QDC MP4.1 – *Sustainable buildings* has been amended to reflect the repeal of mandatory requirements for energy efficient hot water systems.

Local government

Local governments may apply to opt-in to the QDC 4.2 and 4.3 requirements. The application must include an assessment showing that a net benefit can be delivered to the community. An application form has been developed and is available at www.hpw.qld.gov.au.

A list of local governments whose applications have been approved by the Minister will also be published on the website.

Contact for further information

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