



Plumbing Newsflash

PLUMBING LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS AND THE CALLING UP OF TECHNICAL CODES AND STANDARDS

Purpose

To provide details of recent amendments to the plumbing legislation and the technical codes and standards called up by the legislation.

Background

The second stage of developing Queensland's new plumbing laws has resulted in changes to the:

- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*
- *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*
- *Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*
- *Plumbing Code of Australia*
- *AS/NZS 3500*, and
- *Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code*.

Legislation/Codes/Standards

Different components of the package come into effect on different dates to allow industry and local government to get ready for the new laws. These are as follows:

From 1 September 2005

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002. Amendments relating to-

- Sections 33A to 33V – Provides investigatory powers for officers of the Plumbers and Drainers Board to investigate complaints against plumbers.
- Sections 85A – Provides local governments with the right to decline to accept further greywater use facility requests for premises in a sewerred area, (see Plumbing Newsflash issued 8/9/2005).
- Definitions for *greywater*, *greywater diversion device*, *greywater treatment plant*, *greywater use facility*, *investigator* and *sewerred area*.

From 16 December 2005

Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003. Amendments relating to-

- Maintaining the current level of qualifications required for the licensing of plumbers and drainers which will otherwise be reduced by the introduction of a national competency standard for an apprenticeship which is less than that currently required in Queensland;
- Including a fee to lodge applications to the Plumbers and Drainers Board for a review of licence conditions; and

- A minor change to the title of the *Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000*.

Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA). Section 8A of the *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003* (SPDR) calls up the PCA and requires plumbing and drainage to comply with the following sections of the PCA-

- Section A – General Provisions
- Section B – Water Services
- Section C – Sanitary Plumbing and Drainage Systems
- Section G – Materials and Products Certification and Authorisation.

The PCA sets out performance requirements that may be satisfied by complying with the relevant deemed-to-satisfy provisions or formulating an alternative solution. Complying with the relevant parts of the Australian/New Zealand Standard – Plumbing and Drainage (AS/NZS 3500) meets the requirements of the deemed-to-satisfy provisions.

AS/NZS 3500. The applied provisions under the SPDR will now call up the 2003 standard for Parts 0, 1, 2 and 4 (including Amendment 1 to this series). The applied provisions also call up AS/NZS 1546.1:1998 (On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – Septic tanks), AS/NZS1546.3:2001 (On-site domestic wastewater treatment units – Aerated wastewater treatment systems) and AS/NZS 1547:2000 (On-site domestic-wastewater management).

From 1 March 2006

The Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW Code). The QPW Code replaces the “On-site Sewerage Code”. It has been restructured into 4 parts of which Part 2.0 – Use of Greywater for Garden and Lawn Irrigation in Sewered Areas is new. No significant changes have been made to the performance requirements or technical aspects of the old On-site Sewerage Code, which now form Parts 1.0, 3.0 and 4.0 of the QPW Code.

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 – All other amendments to the Act including-

- Requirements for the use of greywater in sewered areas;
- Integration of the approval and enforcement processes for on-site sewerage facilities into existing processes for plumbing and drainage; and
- Other minor amendments.

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 – All other amendments to the regulation including-

- integration of the compliance assessment requirements for on-site sewerage facilities with the existing compliance assessment requirements for plumbing and drainage;
- technical and compliance assessment requirements for greywater use in sewered areas;
- criteria which local governments can consider when deciding greywater applications or determining whether areas are suitable for greywater use; and
- other minor amendments.

Access to legislation and codes

Copies of the amendments to the Act, Regulations and the QPW Code can be viewed and downloaded from the Department's web site at <http://www.lgp.qld.gov.au/?id=258> The legislative amendments may also be viewed and downloaded from the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au – BILLS 05 and LEGISLATION - Subordinate Legislation as made 2005 – SL No. 323. Copies of the PCA and AS/NZS 3500 may be obtained from Standards Australia at <http://www.standards.org.au/> telephone 1300 65 46 46 Email sales@sai-global.com .

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