

# Plumbing newsflash number 398

## Rainwater tank pumps and WaterMark certification

### Purpose

To advise interim arrangements regarding product certification requirements for rainwater tank pumps.

### Background

The department was requested to provide advice on whether the WaterMark Certification Scheme (WMCS) applied to rainwater tank pumps. Plumbing laws in Queensland require all plumbing and drainage items to have WMCS.

The *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002* defines a plumbing or drainage item as any apparatus, fitting, fixture or pipe used for plumbing or drainage. An apparatus for water plumbing includes a backflow prevention device, cistern, pump, domestic water filter, water meter, siphon, tap, valve, water heater or water softener—but does not include an appliance, fitting or straight pipe.

### Legislation

*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 (PDA)*  
Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)  
Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA)

### Issues

#### **Application of the PCA to rainwater tank pumps**

Queensland plumbing laws require product certification for rainwater tank pumps, however the application of the WMCS to rainwater tank pumps is unclear in the PCA.

Part A2 Acceptance of design and construction of the PCA applies to all plumbing and drainage materials and products that are required to be authorised under the PCA. Under Part A2, Table A2.1 specifies the materials and products that require authorisation. Pumps are excluded, although some components listed in Table A2.1 may be used in pumps.

Part G1 Certification and authorisation of the PCA sets out the certification and authorisation procedures for plumbing and drainage materials and products so that they may be authorised for use in plumbing installations. Where a material or product has been excluded from certification, the material or product is authorised for use if it is certified as complying with the relevant PCA requirements in accordance with A2.2 Evidence of suitability.

Due to the uncertainty of the application of WMCS requirements under Part G to rainwater tank pumps, it is recommended local governments use Part A2.2 where rainwater tank pumps do not have certification.

Further, under the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 section 30(3)(b) a local government has discretion to allow the continued use of a plumbing or drainage item that has not been installed to WMSC certification if it is satisfied that use of the item is necessary to maintain plumbing and drainage.

Further, under section 30(4) when the local government approves the continued use of a plumbing or drainage item under section 30(3)(b), the local government may require a person to have the item tested at the person's cost within a stated reasonable time and at a stated reasonable place to be tested.

### **PCA Part A2.2 Evidence of suitability**

Part A2.2 requires that evidence of suitability may be in the form of one or a combination of the following:

- a certification mark
- a current licence issued in compliance with the requirements of Part G of the PCA
- a report from a recognised expert showing that the material, design, construction and installation has been submitted to the tests listed in a report, and sets out the results of those tests and any other relevant information that demonstrates its suitability for use in a plumbing installation
- a certificate from a professional engineer or other appropriately qualified person which certifies the material, design, form of construction or installation complies with the requirements of the PCA and sets the basis on which certification is given and the extent to which relevant specifications, rules, codes of practice or other publications have been relied upon
- any other form of documentary evidence that correctly describes the properties and performance of the material, form of construction or installation, and adequately demonstrates its suitability for use in the plumbing installation.

However, caution should be exercised where rainwater tank pumps are installed to supply drinking water to a premise. In this circumstance the pump should also be certified as compliant with AS/NZS 4020—Products that come into contact with drinking water.

Building Codes Queensland will be engaging with stakeholders and industry to resolve this issue.

### **Contact for further information**

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