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STORMWATER DRAINAGE

Background:

The *National Plumbing and Drainage Code AS/NZS3500.3.2: 1998 - Stormwater Drainage* (the Stormwater Code) was adopted into Volume 1 (Class 2-9 buildings) of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) by Amendment No.3 which took effect on 1 July 1998. The Stormwater Code is a 'deemed to satisfy' document for the design and installation of stormwater drainage associated with all classes of buildings. Previously only the BCA Housing Provisions (Class 1 and 10 buildings) recognised compliance with the Stormwater Code as an acceptable solution for stormwater drainage.

Scope of AS/NZS3500.3.2

The Stormwater Code was republished on 5 June 1998 to replace AS3500.3 - 1990 and incorporates provisions from AS2180 - 1986, the previous Standard for metal rainwater goods. AS/NZS3500.3.2 specifies acceptable solutions for materials and products, and the design and installation of roof, surface and subsoil drainage systems to the point of connection to the external stormwater drainage network.

By consolidating the sizing requirements for gutters and downpipes with drainage system calculations, a complete stormwater drainage system can now be designed from a single document.

Assessing compliance with the Stormwater Code

As the Stormwater Code is regulated by the *Standard Building Regulation* (which adopts the BCA), assessing compliance with the Stormwater Code is a code assessment under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. This assessment is a building certifying function which must be carried out by a building certifier, or a competent person engaged by the building certifier.

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Therefore, the building certifier needs to be aware that stormwater drainage is approved as part of the building work component of a development permit and may be subject to conditions relevant to building work. For example, the building certifier may nominate that inspections are to be carried out at specified stages of the installation.

Some of the aspects of the Stormwater Code that a building certifier needs to be aware of include:

- gutters must be sized according to the rainfall intensity and the roof catchment area per downpipe;
- eaves gutters should incorporate overflow measures to prevent water entering the building. Examples of overflow measures are given in the Code; and
- stormwater drains for single dwellings in rural areas and on urban lots up to 1000 m² in area are designed using the nominal method which recognises local practice and experience and allows a minimum pipe size of DN90.

Local government approval is needed under section 40 of the Standard Sewerage Law to connect a stormwater installation on premises to the local government stormwater drainage system. This is the only approval needed from local government to install stormwater drainage.