

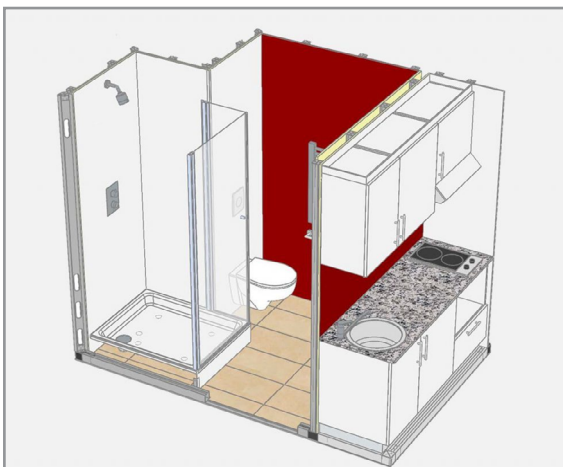
Industry Bulletin 166

New rules for plumbing modules commencing 10 February 2025

This industry bulletin is to alert plumbing and building industries of changes to the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 (the Regulations) for plumbing work integral to prefabricated modules and buildings manufactured off-site.

Plumbing work integral to prefabricated modules and buildings (modular plumbing work) includes but is not limited to plumbing installations carried out as part of manufacturing or building the following:

- Bathroom modules.
- Prefabricated walls with integral plumbing.
- Kitchen or laundry modules.
- Mining accommodation (dongas).
- Transportable buildings.



Example of prefabricated kitchen and bathroom module.

Installation and certification requirements for modular plumbing work

From **10 February 2025** there will be two approved methods for the installation and certification of water supply and sanitary plumbing installed within a prefabricated plumbing module (modular plumbing work) which is intended to be connected to a plumbing or drainage system in Western Australia (WA).

1. Modular plumbing work may be carried out by or under the general direction and control of a WA licensed plumbing contractor (LPC) and certified by the LPC, in the same manner as any other major plumbing work is carried out and certified under the Regulations. Modular plumbing work carried out under the Regulations may only be performed in WA.
2. Modular plumbing work may be carried out by a manufacturer in accordance with the WaterMark Certification Scheme. In this case the plumbing module is deemed to be a product which must be certified by the manufacturer under WaterMark Technical Specification WMTS-050 (WMTS-050). Modular plumbing work carried out under WMTS-050 may be performed nationally or internationally.

Plumbing modules manufactured off-site must be certified under one of these regulatory arrangements, prior to being connected to an on-site plumbing or drainage system.

Amendments to the Regulations

New defined terms

To support the changed requirements, on 10 February 2025, the following defined terms will be inserted into Regulation 3 of the Regulations:

Modular plumbing work

means water supply or sanitary plumbing work carried out in the course of manufacturing or building a plumbing module.

Plumbing module

means a module, or a prefabricated or transportable building, that contains pipes, materials, fixtures or components that –

- a. are water supply plumbing or sanitary plumbing; and
- b. are designed to be connected to water supply plumbing, sanitary plumbing or drainage plumbing that is not in the module or building.

WaterMark Technical Specification

followed by a designation, means a WaterMark Technical Specification –

- a. having that designation; and
- b. published by, or on behalf of, the Australian Building Codes Board.

Definitions of water supply and sanitary plumbing work

To make it clear that modular plumbing work may be carried out and certified in accordance with either the Regulations or the WaterMark Certification Scheme, from 10 February 2025 the definitions of water supply plumbing work and sanitary plumbing work in the Regulations will specifically exclude modular plumbing work certified under WMTS-050.

Australian Building Codes Board and WaterMark Scheme determination

The Regulations call up the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) as the primary plumbing standards that apply in WA. In turn the PCA requires products installed in regulated plumbing installations to be WaterMark certified. The scheme ensures that products used in plumbing installations are fit for purpose.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) administers the WaterMark Certification Scheme to ensure that WaterMark requirements for products in the PCA are followed. Further, the ABCB has published **Notice of Direction 2016/4.0 'Prefabricated plumbing modules'** which details the two methods under which modular plumbing work may be regulated. Notice of Direction 2016/4.0 can be found [here](#).

WaterMark Certification Scheme labelling requirements

Under the mandatory labelling requirements of WMTS-050, plumbing modules must be

permanently and legibly marked with the WaterMark trademark, WaterMark licence number and the WaterMark Technical Specification that the product has been certified against. See below example:



Recommended labelling for plumbing modules under the Regulations

It is recommended that a data plate be fixed to the plumbing module listing the licence number of the responsible LPC and the Certificate of Compliance number that the modular plumbing work has been certified against.

Disclaimer – The information contained in this document is provided as general information and a guide only. It should not be relied upon as legal advice or as an accurate statement of the relevant legislation provisions. If you are uncertain as to your legal obligations, you should obtain independent legal advice.

Building and Energy | Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
1300 489 099

8.30am – 4.30pm
Level 1 Mason Bird Building
303 Sevenoaks Street (entrance Grose Avenue)
Cannington Western Australia 6107
M: **Locked Bag 100, East Perth WA 6892**
W: www.demirs.wa.gov.au/building-and-energy
E: be.info@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Regional Offices

Goldfields/Esperance	(08) 9021 9494
Great Southern	(08) 9842 8366
Kimberley	(08) 9191 8400
Mid-West	(08) 9920 9800
North-West	(08) 9185 0900
South-West	(08) 9722 2888

National Relay Service: 13 36 77
Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS): 13 14 50

This publication is available in other formats on request to assist people with special needs.