



Emergency eye wash and shower equipment

This industry bulletin replaces the information previously published in May 2018 due to updates of the WaterMark Certification Scheme documents and a Notice of Direction issued by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB). The changes relate to the certification requirements for emergency eye wash and shower equipment installed in water supply plumbing systems in Western Australia.

Background

The industry bulletin 100/2018 was published in May 2018 when emergency eye wash and shower equipment were not listed on either the WaterMark Schedule of Products (WSP) or the WaterMark Schedule of Excluded Products (WMSEP).

Licensed plumbing contractors installing such equipment were required to lodge an application for the modification or non-application of the plumbing standards with the Plumbers Licensing Board. This process is outlined under Regulation 54 of the Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000.

Current position

Following a risk assessment process, these products were deemed to be of sufficient risk to be included on the latest version of the WSP and must now be transitioned to WaterMark certification.

The ABCB has issued Notice of Direction 2018/5.0 that includes a transition period of 12 months from the publication of the 2019–1 version of the WaterMark Schedule of Products on 21 May 2019.

The Notice of Direction states that during the 12 month transition period, evidence of suitability in accordance with part A5.3 of the Plumbing Code of Australia 2019 (PCA) may be used to demonstrate that the material or product is fit for the purpose for which it is intended.

Installation of emergency eye wash and shower equipment

Licensed plumbing contractors who intend to install emergency eye wash and/or shower equipment before 21 May 2020, are no longer required to seek a declaration under Regulation 54 for the non-application of the plumbing standards and now must:

- ensure all such equipment is WaterMark certified; or
- be satisfied they are provided with sufficient evidence from the manufacturer that the equipment is fit for its intended purpose in accordance with part A5.3 of the PCA.

Licensed plumbing contractors may be requested to produce such evidence by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's plumbing inspectors as part of an inspection or audit of the installation.

From 21 May 2020 licensed plumbing contractors must ensure emergency eye wash and/or shower equipment is WaterMark certified before installation and may need to seek a declaration under Regulation 54 for the non-application of the plumbing standards if the equipment is not WaterMark certified.

Additional information on the WaterMark Certification Scheme, including the Notice of Direction 2018/5.0 is available at the following web address:

<https://www.abcb.gov.au/Product-Certification/WaterMark-Certification-Scheme>

Disclaimer – The information contained in this fact sheet 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.

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