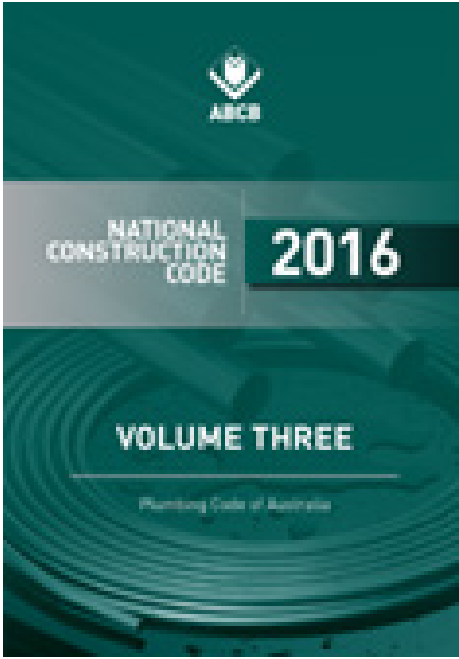




Be in the Know



The Australian Building Codes Board advised on the ABCB website (www.abcb.gov.au) that the National Construction Code 2016 was adopted by all States and Territories on 1 May 2016.

Volume Three of the National Construction Code 2016 is the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA). The adoption of the 2016 PCA means there have been some changes to the deemed-to-satisfy provisions.

Under GENERAL PROVISIONS, the PCA provides a list of Referenced Documents which provide the deemed-to-satisfy solutions.

AS/NZS 3500.0:2003 remains the Glossary of terms for plumbing and drainage; however AS/NZS 3500 Parts 1, 2 and 4 of 2003 have been superseded by AS/NZS 3500 Parts 1, 2 and 4 of 2015.

The Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 section 8A Compliance with Plumbing Code of Australia states:

1. "Plumbing work and drainage work must comply with the PCA sections A, B (other than part B4–Fire fighting water services), C and G."
2. Plumbing work and drainage work complies with the PCA only if the work satisfies the relevant performance requirements under the PCA.
3. Compliance with the relevant performance requirements under the PCA can be achieved only by;
 - (a) complying with the relevant deemed-to-satisfy provisions under the PCA.

Australian Standards

What is their purpose? Is it...



» **Voluntary or Mandatory application**
Minimum objective of safety, quality or performance of product or service?

» **Regulatory compliance**
Used to specify minimum least cost solutions to technical requirements expressing characteristics, performance and design criteria compatible with legislative requirements?

» **Contractual purpose**
For purchasing specifications or technical conditions of contract between two or more parties?

» **Guidance**
Intended for educational purposes which also include recommendations, or administrative or project management procedures?

The key to the answer is the explanation provided on the Australian Standards website www.standards.org.au under **Are Australian Standards mandatory?**

"Australian (AS) or joint Australian/New Zealand (AS/NZS) Standards are often called up in State and Commonwealth legislation.

When this happens, these Standards become mandatory and can be subject to the scrutiny of the courts."

ANSWER - Regulatory compliance
Standards that are "used to specify minimum least-cost solutions to technical requirements expressing characteristics, performance and design criteria compatible with legislative requirements."

What does this mean for you as the Contractor and the Council Inspector assessing your work?

Compliance with every relevant clause in AS/NZS 3500 is the minimum standard, set by State law, with which work must comply to pass inspection.

There is no restriction on the extent to which you may carry out work which exceeds the Standard.

Where the work does not comply with AS/NZS 3500 in any aspect the work will need to be rectified to comply with the minimum standard to pass inspection.

Think of it like this. We live in area where boating, particularly for fishing, is popular.

If you arrive at a ramp with a boat needing 450mm to float finding that it is low tide and there is only a depth of 300mm of water. You are not going anywhere until the water rises to at least 450mm deep.

Likewise plumbing and drainage work WILL pass when the minimum standard is met.

In Brief

What does this mean for plumbing and drainage contractors carrying out work after May 1, 2016?

YOU SHOULD

- Download a copy of the 2016 NCC Suite from the ABCB website.
- Obtain from SAI Global the 2015 AS/NZS 3500 Parts 1, 2 and 4.
- Compare your work with each specific clause relevant to your work to check compliance before the work is inspected or audited.



Livingstone Shire Council's Construction Services is increasing the use of digital technology to provide a faster streamlined issue of compliance permits, certificates and information notices direct from the inspection site to your email address for access on smartphone, tablet or computer.

Electronic Permits and Certificates

- » Permits and approved plans emailed to owner, applicant and responsible person (OAR)
- » Information requests emailed (OAR)
- » Certificates emailed (OAR)
- » Conformation of preferred current email addresses required

Electronic issue by email is now Council's preferred method of issue for correspondence to stakeholders in the application process.

Please provide your preferred contact details to Council (enquiries@livingstone.qld.gov.au) i.e. email and phone number for the attention of Plumbing Administration to ensure Council has accurate record for issue of all correspondence. If email is not available, correspondence will be posted.

If you have any queries please contact Plumbing Administration on 49399937.



The handy Homeowner

What should you say when your client asks what plumbing work they can do without a licence?

You should clearly explain the following.

For sanitary plumbing and sanitary drainage

- » Cleaning or maintaining ground level grates to traps on sanitary drains
- » Replacing caps to ground level inspection openings on sanitary drains
- » Maintaining an above or below ground irrigation system for the disposal of effluent from an on-site sewerage facility or greywater use facility.

For water plumbing

- » Installing or maintaining an irrigation or lawn watering system downstream from an isolating valve, tap or backflow prevention device on the supply pipe for the irrigation or lawn watering system
- » Replacing a jumper valve or washer in a tap
- » Changing a shower head
- » Replacing a drop valve washer, float valve washer or suction cup rubber in a toilet cistern
- » Replacing a domestic water filter cartridge

Any work not in this list is work which requires a licensed plumber/drafter!

Protect your customer, your business and the environment by ensuring that only licensed persons carry out "licensed work!"

Reference: Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 Schedule 4)

Have your Say!

Would you like to have input into revising Queensland's Building and Plumbing laws? Here is your opportunity!

Queensland Government is promoting the "Queensland Building Plan."

Go to: <http://queenslandbuildingplan.engagementhq.com/areas-for-discussion>



Register and complete the online surveys and HAVE YOUR SAY on:

- » Improving Queensland's Plumbing Laws
- » Facilitating off-site construction of bathroom pods
- » On-site sewage and greywater treatment plants
- » Improving plumbing installations for buildings constructed on reactive and unstable soils
- » Facilitating the use of innovative plumbing products and solutions
- » Restricting the sale of certain plumbing products that are not WaterMark certified
- » Reform around requirements for temperature control devices
- » Orientation of collectors for solar heated water systems

Plumbing and Drainage Act reform
Goal: To streamline processes for industry and consumers and protect public safety

Licensing reforms
Goal: To simplify licence classes and modernise the approach to licensing

Supporting fact sheets are available at www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au



4913 5000 or 1300 790 919
(including after-hours for emergencies)



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