

AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD

WaterMark Certification Scheme

Notice of Direction

2018/2.0

Flexible hoses with shut-off devices



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Intent

The purpose of this notice is to provide clarification on the most appropriate specification for evaluating flexible hoses with shut-off devices.

Issue

This notice is provided in accordance with Clause 5(c) of the Rules for the WaterMark Certification Scheme.

This notice is issued by the WaterMark Administration to maintain the integrity of the WaterMark Certification Scheme by providing clarification on the most appropriate product specification for the certification of flexible hoses with shut-off devices where the flexible hose is under direct hydrostatic pressure, such as hand held douche or shower trigger sprays.

Currently these types of products are being certified to either:

- *AS/NZS 3662 Water supply – Performance of showers for bathing; or*
- *AS/NZS 3718 Water supply – Tapware*

AS/NZS 3662 is not appropriate for the certification of these products as this specification is intended to cover non-pressurised shower systems, where the components are only exposed to dynamic pressure. All the performance tests within AS/NZS 3662 relate to dynamic pressure and do not account for hydrostatic pressure.

Flexible hoses with shut-off devices experience the hydraulic pressure of the plumbing system, including pressure anomalies such as water hammer and other pressure surges. To obtain WaterMark certification, products are required to be capable of withstanding all normal operating conditions to be considered fit for purpose.

AS/NZS 3718 Clause 3.9.3.2 requires flexible hoses with shut-off devices to comply with the performance tests. These require a flexible hose be tested for watertightness and to be capable of withstanding hydraulic pulsation and burst tests. These tests are more appropriate for a flexible hose that experiences hydraulic pressure.

Reference Documents

- National Construction Code 2016 – Volume Three - Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA)
- Rules for the WaterMark Certification Scheme (Appendix 1 of the Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme)

Direction

The Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme outlines requirements for the evaluation of products, in particular Appendix 1, Clause 4 (b) (i):-

An Approved Certifier will grant an applicant the right to use the WaterMark if it is satisfied the applicant:- (i) is capable, in relation to Plumbing Products in connection with which use of the WaterMark is sought, of providing such Products certified as complying with Applicable Specifications.

The directions are as follows:

- 1.0 All WaterMark Licences listing flexible hoses with shut-off devices are to be reviewed by the WMCAB. Flexible hoses with shut-off devices shall be re-evaluated to identify products that have been inappropriately certified.
- 2.0 Should the WMCAB identify that an existing certified product has been inappropriately certified or relates to, but does not completely match the scope of the specification, the WMCAB shall remove the product from the Licence Product Schedule. Upon removal of these products, the Licence shall re-issued and uploaded to the WaterMark Database.
- 3.0 Directions 1.0 and 2.0 above are to be completed within 12 months from 1 November 2018.
- 4.0 Should the WaterMark Administration be made aware of a flexible hose with shut-off device that may have been inappropriately certified, the responsible WMCAB will be notified for immediate action.
- 5.0 The WMCAB may then choose to adopt one of the following options:
 - (i) Recertification of the product to the appropriate specification, providing suitable evidence and justification for the selection of the specification; or
 - (ii) Where the product does not completely match the scope of the specification, a project proposal may be submitted to Standards Australia to amend the specification to incorporate the product and the appropriate testing requirements.

Upon publication and listing on the WaterMark Schedule of Products, certification of these products can be undertaken to the amended specification.

Further Information

Should any WaterMark Certification Scheme stakeholder require further clarification, they should contact the WaterMark Administration on 1300 134 631 or email WaterMark@abcb.gov.au.

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