

WaterMark Certification Scheme

Notice of Direction

2016/4.0

Prefabricated plumbing modules

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Intent

The intent of this notice is to provide direction on the requirements for off-site prefabricated plumbing modules, such as 'bathroom pods', including the content of WaterMark Certificates of Conformity, and guidance on the difference between a WaterMark certified plumbing product and regulated plumbing work.

Background

This Notice of Direction is provided in accordance with clause 5 of the Rules for the WaterMark Certification Trade Marks.

On 27 October 2016 the Australian Building Codes Board ('the Board') made a decision that prefabricated bathroom modules (also known as a 'bathroom pods') will be accepted in all plumbing jurisdictions as either:

- a) a **purpose-built bathroom module** – which is a **product**, as defined in the National Construction Code 2016, Volume Three, the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA), listed in the WaterMark Certification Scheme, that is WaterMark certified to the applicable product specification(s) and subsequently installed by a licensed plumbing practitioner. The product, comprising integral components, may be assembled or manufactured in any off-site location, nationally or internationally; *or*
- b) a **prefabricated plumbing installation** – which is **regulated work**, involving the interconnection of component products, that is undertaken or approved by a licensed plumbing practitioner and subsequently installed by a licensed plumbing practitioner. The regulated work must be undertaken in the same jurisdiction as that having authority at the site of installation, in accordance with the legislated requirements for regulated work in that jurisdiction, and will not be required to be WaterMark certified as a product.

In addition, the Board agreed that other similar prefabricated plumbing modules, such as prefabricated kitchen modules, will be treated the same way, notwithstanding any need for making appropriate amendments to the applicable product specification(s).

Reference Documents

Primary

- National Construction Code 2019 – Volume Three - Plumbing Code of Australia Schedule 3 defines a product as follows:

Product means

plumbing and *drainage* items within the scope of the *PCA* including but not limited to:

- (a) Materials, fixtures and components used in a *plumbing* or *drainage* installation.
- (b) Appliances and equipment connected to a *plumbing* or *drainage* system.

Secondary

- WaterMark Schedule of Products
- Approved Certifier Agreement
- Approved User Agreement.

Direction

The directions are as follows:

- 1.0 In all plumbing jurisdictions a prefabricated bathroom module will be accepted as a product, provided the requirements at 2.0 are met, or as regulated work provided the requirements at 3.0 are met.
- 2.0 For acceptance as a product, a prefabricated bathroom module must be certified to the applicable WaterMark product specification, and:
 - 2.1 the issuing Approved Certifier (WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body) must include, on the WaterMark Certificate of Conformity Product Schedule, a listing of any WaterMark certified integral component(s) used within the module and the respective WaterMark licence number(s);
 - 2.2 the issuing Approved Certifier must include, in the product description field of the WaterMark Product Database, a listing of any WaterMark certified integral component(s) used within the module;
 - 2.3 following certification, the Approved User (Licensee) must advise the issuing Approved Certifier the details of any substitute WaterMark certified integral components used within the module; the issuing Approved Certifier must evaluate the integral components and update the WaterMark Certificate of Conformity and WaterMark Product Database accordingly;
 - 2.4 the issuing Approved Certifier must ensure that any WaterMark certified integral component(s) used within the module have, and maintain current WaterMark certification;

- 2.5 in accordance with the Approved User Agreement, the Approved User must state in its annual declaration to the Approved Certifier that the module and any WaterMark certified integral components are in conformity with the relevant applicable specifications; and
 - 2.6 the purpose-built bathroom module must be installed by a licenced plumbing practitioner, in accordance with the requirements of the PCA and the legislated requirements for regulated work in that jurisdiction.
- 3.0 For acceptance as regulated work:
- 3.1 the regulated work must be undertaken in the same jurisdiction as that having authority at the site of installation, in accordance with the legislated requirements for regulated work in that jurisdiction;
 - 3.2 the interconnection of the component products must be undertaken or approved by a licensed plumbing practitioner;
 - 3.3 all integral components, where required, must be WaterMark certified; and
 - 3.4 the prefabricated plumbing installation must be installed by a licenced plumbing practitioner, who may or may not be the same practitioner involved in the interconnection of the component products, in accordance with the requirements of the PCA and the legislated requirements for regulated work in that jurisdiction.
- 4.0 Prior to pursuing acceptance of a prefabricated plumbing installation as regulated work, the authority having jurisdiction should be contacted, so the legislated requirements for regulated work in that jurisdiction can be determined.
- 5.0 Any form of prefabricated plumbing module proposed for use in a plumbing or drainage installation, which is not listed as a product on the WaterMark Schedule of Products, will require a risk assessment to be undertaken to determine if WaterMark certification is required. If so, a product specification will need to be developed and approved, and the product listed on the WaterMark Schedule of Products, in accordance with the WaterMark Certification Scheme Rules.
- 6.0 In all instances, for a WaterMark certified product, compliance, surveillance, audit and enforcement shall be in accordance with the requirements and mechanisms of the WaterMark Certification Scheme and its Rules.
- 7.0 In all instances, for regulated plumbing work, compliance, surveillance, audit and enforcement shall be in accordance with the requirements and mechanisms of the authority having jurisdiction and its legislation.

Further Information

Should any WaterMark Certification Scheme stakeholder require further clarification, they should contact the ABCB office directly for further advice on 1300 134 631 or email watermark@abcb.gov.au.

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