AMENDMENT TO AS3500.4 - HOT WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

An Amendment to AS3500.4 - Hot Water Supply Systems was issued by Standards Australia on 19 September 1994. The Amendment contains various new requirements for Hot Water Supply Systems, including limitations on the temperature of hot water supply to certain fixtures.

Control of hot water temperatures was included in the Standard to reduce the likelihood of accidental scalding occurring, particularly to young children and aged people.

The Director of Building Control has determined that any new building work commenced after 3 April 1995 must comply with the new requirements. This date has been set in recognition of the difficulties encountered in obtaining copies and advice concerning the new requirements. It is strongly recommended that work commenced prior to this date also comply with the new requirements in the interest of public safety.

The control of water temperature is in respect of all new installations including additions which incorporate personal hygiene fixtures (bathrooms and ensuites). Whilst the Standard does not prevent other fixtures, such as kitchen sinks and laundries being provided with controlled temperature hot water, it is likely that to do so will not be acceptable to the owner. It is therefore recommended that full temperature hot water be supplied to these fixtures.

The Standards Australia Committee responsible for AS3500 recently considered reviewing the requirement to position the tempering valve within one metre of the water heater (Clause 4.9.4(a)). Due to the valves now available, they have agreed to delete this requirement from the Standard in the next amendment. In the interim positioning of the valve in excess of one metre from the water heater, will be deemed to comply with the Standard.

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for Director
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