
BUILDING ADVISORY SERVICES BRANCH

BUILDING NOTE

Contact Officer: Peter Hadfield

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NEW NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE PLUMBING PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The purpose of this Building Note is to advise building practitioners and licensed plumbers that the draft National Construction Code - plumbing provisions have been released for public comment.

BACKGROUND

In July 2008 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to the development of a National Construction Code (NCC) on building, plumbing, electrical and telecommunications standards. On 7 December 2009 COAG agreed to integrated building and plumbing standards as first step with the reform being developed through the Building Ministers Forum (BMF).

The National Plumbing Regulatory Forum (NPRF) and the Australian Building Codes Board(ABCB) were tasked by the Building Ministers' Forum in February 2010 to work together to deliver consolidated building and plumbing regulation.

The National Construction Code Plumbing Provisions is the first step in this process and is earmarked for publication for the first time in May 2011.

The National Construction Code Plumbing Provisions build on the Plumbing Code of Australia published in 2004.

Current Provisions

The Northern Territory regulates plumbing technical provisions under the *Building Act* and references through the regulations Australian Standard AS/NZS 3500 as the technical standards plumbers need to comply with.

Additionally the NT holds a number of variations to this code through regulation.

National Construction Code provisions

The NCC plumbing provisions will not change the technical regulation of plumbing in the Northern Territory as the NCC maintains AS/NZS 3500 as the technical standard for plumbing referred to as Deemed to Satisfy provisions for all plumbing installations.

The NCC will however allow for greater opportunities for innovation in design and use of approved materials and gains through an improved regulatory framework for plumbing standards through the adoption of performance based standards.

The NCC is performance based and contains deemed to satisfy provisions (AS/NZS 3500) and allows for state variations to provide additional requirements or cater for specific community expectations.

A performance based approach defines the way of achieving a specified outcome without prescribing a particular method.

The NCC Plumbing Code is open for public comment and is available on the ABCB website from 21 July 2010. www.abcb.gov.au

Submission can be made to the ABCB through the following email address - Plumbing2011@abcb.gov.au closing date for submissions is 1st September 2010.



Fabio Finocchiaro
Director Building Control
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