

WaterMark Scheme

Guidelines - WaterMark - Certification Process



WaterMark Compliance Requirements

The WaterMark Certification Scheme, (WMCS), is a mandatory, product certification scheme, for plumbing and drainage products. The WMCS, document, the “Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme”, defines the requirements for, product evaluation, risk assessment, certification, and developing new, Product Technical Specification/s.

The Manual, can be viewed or downloaded from the, ABCB, website:

- <https://www.abcb.gov.au/Resources/Publications/Certification/Manual-for-the-WaterMark-Certification-Scheme>.

The objective of the WMCS is to facilitate a national uniform approach to plumbing product compliance and approval for installation.

WaterMark certification is normally applied to products that are installed in the hot or cold-water supply systems, or drainage systems. A comprehensive listing of plumbing products, mandated as requiring WMCS, - including product types and application, specifications and exemptions - is contained in the, ABCB document, [Schedule of Products-WaterMark](#), (WMSP).

Similarly a detailed listing of plumbing products, mandated as not requiring, WMCS, is contained in the, ABCB document, [Schedule of Excluded Products-WaterMark](#), (WMEP).

Materials and products complying fully with the applicable requirements of the, WMCS, are listed on the ABCB, [WaterMark Product Database](#), webpage.

In order for your plumbing product to achieve, WaterMark Certification, the product needs to—

1. Be tested by an accredited testing laboratory.
2. Comply with an applicable specification.
3. Be manufactured in accordance with an approved quality management system, and
4. Clearly state its intended scope of use.

Transition arrangements for Lead Free plumbing products.

The ABCB has documented a transition directive “Notice of Direction” (NOD2021/4.2 Certification transition arrangement for lead free plumbing products) for the use of Approved Certifiers/Users in the Lead-Free requirements for plumbing products as outlined in the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022.

Timeline/Enforcement at point of installation.

The transition period commenced, 1st May 2023 and will cease by 30th April 2026. From the 1st of May 2026 only plumbing products that have been certified to the Lead-Free requirements of copper alloy in contact with drinking water will be authorised for use in plumbing installations after 30th April 2026.

Lead Free-Applicable Specifications.

Those Specifications that are required to be assessed for Lead Free are those listed in the WaterMark Schedule of Products as available on ABCB website; <https://watermark.abcb.gov.au> Any new or amended specifications will be assessed for the inclusion of Lead-Free requirements for copper alloy in contact with drinking water as detailed in Volume 1, Part A5 G4 of the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022. Those products in contact with drinking water that are inherently Lead-Free or otherwise not required to be certified may be voluntarily evaluated as a Lead-Free product.

The Stages of WaterMark Certification

Product Review: by the manufacturer, to ensure the product conforms with the stated requirements of the Product Specification. Check the ABCB website, products requiring mandatory WaterMark Scheme compliance are listed in the Schedule of Products-WaterMark (WMSP). If a new product cannot be evaluated to an approved specification, a new or amended product specification can be submitted to the ABCB Office to review and approve. Once approved, CSi can undertake an evaluation of the new product.

Application for WaterMark Licence: Complete the application form and forward it to **CSi**. Supply **CSi** with the requested, technical documentation, Drawings, Photographs, Product markings, etc.

Initial Certification – Product Testing: The initial certification process shall be conducted in accordance with the stated requirements of “The Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme” and CSi document, WaterMark Scheme - Rules & Requirements.

Annual Surveillance the WaterMark Scheme, certified product is required to undergo surveillance on an annual basis. The methods used for annual surveillance shall be in accordance with the stated requirements of, “The Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme” and CSi document, WaterMark Scheme - Rules & Requirements.

Re-Certification, Year 5: The WaterMark Scheme certification was issued with a five (5) year term. Three (3) months prior to expiry of the certification, re-evaluation shall be conducted, in accordance with the stated requirements of, “The Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme” and CSi document, WaterMark Scheme - Rules & Requirements.

The following is a basic overview of the CSi, WaterMark Certification, process.

	APPLICANT	CSi
 Stage 1	Review the product/s you intend to WaterMark to determine its conformance with the applicable Product Specification. Check ABCB website, for your Product Specification listing in the Schedule of Products-WaterMark (WMSP).	Where the product is not listed on the Schedule of products or Schedule of excluded products, the applicant is advised of separate procedures to establish whether WaterMark certification is required. The procedures are detailed in the Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme and include Risk analysis and Development of a WaterMark Technical Specification, for the product.
 Stage 2	Contact CSi, get a quotation and CSi WaterMark Scheme information. Review the CSi documentation. Complete the application form and forward it to CSi. On acceptance of the application by CSi, payment is to be made in accordance with the service provisions stated by CSi in the invoiced payment for service delivery.	CSi to provide the following documents, • PAS-007-WM WaterMark - Rules & Requirements • PAS-008-WM Use of the WaterMark Logo, CSi Certificate & Product Schedule • PAS-009-WM WaterMark Scheme - Terms, Conditions & Appeals Process • PAS-048-WM WaterMark Scheme - Schedule of Fees • PAS-011-WM Guidelines-WaterMark-Certification-Process. • PASF-025-WM WaterMark Application Form
 Stage 3	Provide CSi with a Quality Plan which meets the requirements of the WaterMark Scheme Manual, Appendix 5. Provide CSi with the following information to support your application. A Technical overview of the product, Material specifications, technical drawings, Product markings proposal, Claims associated with the product, Installation instructions, WaterMark Scope of Use statement, Characteristics/Critical attributes of the product against specifications, Type Testing proposal, Batch Test Release proposal, Certification currency of individual, WaterMark certified, integral components (if used).	The Quality Plan is to be document in the English Language and will be reviewed to ensure it conforms with the WaterMark Scheme Manual and CSi, document, PAS-007 WaterMark, Rules & Requirements. CSi, Account Manager will undertake an offsite review of information provided for conformance with the Product Specification.

 Stage 4	Applicant agrees to an onsite Business Review of the company's management and production systems. Company submits product/s to be Watermark Certified and submission for Type and Batch Testing proposals, recognised test laboratory details.	CSi report on the company production and management systems, including the quality plan, for conformance with the Manual, Product Specification and CSi, WaterMark, Rules & Requirements. CSi agrees on the list of products to be tested by the nominated, accredited laboratory, and sample selection process of product for testing. CSi agree on an ongoing batch testing program and record keeping of completed test reports.
 Stage 5	Company carries out any corrective actions requested by CSi for product, production or management system, non-conformances raised at the business review, by CSi. Submit/Confirm, Scope of products, final product marking proposal, installation instructions, WaterMark Scope of Use. Sign Approved User Agreement, Confirm WaterMark Licence – Product Schedule details and return to CSi.	CSi undertakes post business review, confirms in writing the manufacturers corrective actions are acceptable. CSi verify the final Scope of products, final product marking proposal, installation instructions, WaterMark Scope of Use, prepare WaterMark Licence – Product Schedule for Applicant review and acceptance. Grant WaterMark Licence.
 Stage 6	WaterMark Licence Holder – Approved User, maintains the certification and undertakes annual surveillance business reviews for Years, 2, 3, 4 & 5. Undertakes to notify CSi of any changes in Design Freeze, materials, key management, suppliers, site location, etc. Undertakes product re-certification in certification expiry year.	CSi conduct surveillance business reviews in accordance with the Manual and CSi, WaterMark, Rules & Requirements. CSi ensures the WaterMark Licensee completes the Approved User Agreement and declarations annually.



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