

# WaterMark Certification

## A Guide to the WaterMark Certification Scheme (WMCS)

The WaterMark Certification Scheme is a mandatory certification scheme for certain plumbing and drainage products to ensure that plumbing and drainage products are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use in plumbing or drainage installations.

The WaterMark Certification Scheme identifies certified plumbing products by the use of a single **WaterMark** certification mark.

Under Australian State and Territory law, persons installing plumbing work must comply with the Plumbing Code of Australia. The Plumbing Code of Australia requires certain plumbing and drainage products to be certified and authorised for use in a plumbing or drainage installation. The WaterMark Certification Scheme is governed by the Rules for the WaterMark Certification Scheme, which outline the requirements for product evaluation, certification, risk assessment and developing new product specifications.

In order to achieve WaterMark certification, the subject 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 plan; and
4. clearly state its intended scope of use.

The objective of the WaterMark Certification Scheme is to provide a uniform national approach to plumbing product approvals. Under the Scheme, provided that your product carries appropriate certification markings, it will be accepted for use in all Australian states and territories - subject to correct installation practices in accordance with AS/NZS 3500 and any local deviations.


The Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) forms Volume Three of the National Construction Code, which is produced and maintained by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) on behalf of the Australian Government and State and Territory Governments. The PCA is given legal effect by enabling legislation in each State and Territory which empowers the regulation of certain aspects of plumbing and drainage installations. The goal of the PCA is to enable the achievement of nationally consistent, minimum necessary standards of relevant safety, health, amenity and sustainability objectives efficiently.

In 2017 the ABCB revised the rules for watermark certification to include a single level of certification for all products.

## PRODUCTS

In the WaterMark Scheme, approval is based on the certification of products to nominated Standards and Technical Specifications as listed in the ABCB document – Watermark Schedule of Products. Products that are not specifically listed can be assessed if authorisation is required, by the development of a Technical Specification (WMTS).

Below is a brief outline of the types of products covered by certification and the basic details of the certification process.

<p><b>WaterMark (WMK)</b></p> 	<p><b>WaterMark</b> certification is generally applied to products that are installed in the hot or cold water supply system or drainage system. Typical product groups that fall under this certification level are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water Heaters</li><li>• Hot and Cold Water Supply Pipes and Fittings</li><li>• Taps and Valves</li><li>• Sanitary Fixtures - Water Closets, Bidet/Bidettes</li><li>• Appliances</li><li>• Water Filters and Water Treatment Devices</li><li>• Sanitary and Drainage Pipes and Fittings</li><li>• Sanitary and Drainage Valves</li><li>• Showers</li></ul> <p>The certification process comprises of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Product design review</b> and <b>accredited testing</b> to determine product compliance with the relevant Standard, or Watermark Technical Specification (WMTS). The Standard or Technical Specification addresses requirements, such as:</li></ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Materials used for the product.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design specifics</li> <li>• Performance and functionality, including durability</li> <li>• Product Marking and installation instructions.</li> <li>• All certified products are required to supply a scope of use (installation instruction).</li> </ul> <p>2. <b>Initial and ongoing assessment</b> of the product manufacture in association with annual surveillance of the product and associated quality plan. The certification procedures are defined in the Product Compliance Program (PCP), which is forwarded to all new applicants.</p> <p>Certification has a 5 year lifecycle. Prior to renewal after 5 years, re-evaluation testing at an accredited laboratory is required.</p>
<p><b>New and/or Unlisted Products</b></p>	<p>When the product is not specifically listed in the schedule of products, or schedule of excluded products, separate procedures are in place to establish whether certification is required. This process involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Risk Analysis</li> <li>- Development of a Watermark Technical Specification.</li> </ul> <p>Full details of these procedures can be found by contacting SAI Global.</p>
	<p><b>Testing</b></p> <p>Initial certification of products requires type testing. Type tests are detailed in the specification to which the product is seeking certification. Type testing for watermark needs to be conducted in a accredited laboratory. Laboratories need to be accredited for the test methods specified in the standard. The accreditation of the laboratory needs to be issued by NATA or an organisation that has a mutual recognition arrangement with NATA. eg ILAC-MRA.</p> <p>Batch testing of certified products is conducted at the manufacturing site using on-site equipment and will be assessed during the first audit.</p> <p><b>Timing</b></p> <p>The time needed to achieve certification depends largely on how well prepared a company is to implement the process.</p> <p>For WaterMark certification, the time frame depends on the length of time required for product testing and your readiness for assessment of the manufacturing processes.</p> <p><b>Further Information</b></p> <p>Further information is available on our website. <a href="http://www.saiglobal.com/product-certification/water-plumbing/">http://www.saiglobal.com/product-certification/water-plumbing/</a> You are invited to contact us via email on <a href="mailto:product@saiglobal.com">product@saiglobal.com</a> or via phone Australia/Asia: +61 2 8206 6322</p>

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SAI Global's extensive certification experience covers more than 300 Australian and international standards and we issue more than 15,000 certificates globally. Our experience in Assurance Services gives us the ability to assist you with audit services that can help you to manage your risks.

SAI Global auditors are selected for specific audit activities based on their qualifications, skills and industry experience that match the business needs of our clients. For WaterMark certification SAI Global uses auditors with specific plumbing industry knowledge and extensive audit experience.