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## Authorized products in Plumbing and Drainage Installations

The purpose of this news flash is to highlight a number of recent incidents where plumbers have installed unauthorized products in plumbing and drainage installations.

### Legislative requirements

All plumbing and drainage products must be marked with an appropriate certification mark issued by Quality Assurance Services (QAS) under SAA MP52 - 1997, before they can be installed and connected to council services. The system of marking products comprises:

- StandardsMark
- WaterMark
- TypeTest Mark
- Interim Authorization

The attached table provides further details.

The approved products are automatically deemed to be authorized by councils for use in plumbing and drainage installations.

Section 47 of the *Standard Sewerage Law* states “ A person must not install or use any apparatus, fittings, fixtures, materials or pipes ( a “plumbing or drainage item”) in sanitary plumbing or drainage, or in an on-site sewerage facility, unless the plumbing or drainage item has received MAP certification or interim certification under MAP.”



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Section 41 of the *Standard Water Supply Law* states “ A person must not install or use any apparatus, fittings, material or pipe ( a “plumbing item”) in water plumbing unless the plumbing item has received MAP certification or interim certification under MAP.”

“MAP” means the Manual of Authorization Procedures for plumbing and drainage products, designated as SAA MP 52 - 1997. This manual provides detailed information on the authorization procedures for plumbing products based upon the national StandardsMark, WaterMark and TypeTest Mark certification schemes administered by Standards Australia through Quality Assurance Services.

## **Assemblies for water supply services**

For assemblies such as fire booster systems, backflow devices etc, the plumber should ensure before installation that all fittings and fixtures used in the assembly are approved.

## **On- site treatment plant**

Only approved types of sewerage treatment plants are to be used. Several types of approvals are available and these include:

- for pre-fabricated facilities: model approval; and
- for built in-situ facilities: type specification approval.

Model and type test approvals are granted by the Department of Natural Resources in accordance with Section 77 and Section 79 of the *Standard Sewerage Law*.

## **Septic tanks**

A septic tank must be designed, built and tested in accordance with AS/NZS 1546. The Joint Committee approved septic tanks until 1996 and since that time the products should have been licensed by QAS. The Department is currently reviewing the approval procedure for septic tanks and some other products not covered by SAA MP 52 - 1997.

## **Authorization not required in Qld**

Under SAA MP 52- 1997, baths, basins, troughs, sinks, shower bases, bathroom modules and shower enclosures do not require authorization.

## **Ordering approved products**

When ordering materials, plumbers and drainers should notify the manufacturer or suppliers that only approved materials will be accepted and if in doubt, must ask for a statement that the product is suitable for use under the specific conditions about its suitability. The conditions may be items such as limits on water pressure, water temperature or any other operating circumstance.

If in doubt about a product, please contact:

Quality Assurance Services

Locked Bag 2032

Strathfield

NSW 2135.

Telephone:(02) 9746 4900, Fax (02) 9746 8460

internet site: [http\www.qas.com.au\products.htm](http://www.qas.com.au/products.htm)