



Plumbing Newsflash

Queensland Development Code (QDC) Part 25 Water Savings Targets

Purpose

The purpose of this Newsflash is to clarify the minimum mandatory requirements under QDC Part 25 for the plumbing of toilet cisterns and the use of manual switching devices.

Background

It has been brought to the Department's attention that some plumbing inspectors may not be aware of the mandatory requirements under QDC Part 25 Water Savings Targets, specifically, the requirements for plumbing of toilet cisterns and the need for automatic switching devices.

Under the *Building Regulation 2006*, councils may vary the QDC to set additional or higher requirements.

Legislation

Building Act 1975.

Building Regulation 2006, Section 7.

QDC Water Savings Targets – P2 / A2 and P5 / A5.

Interpretation

Toilet cisterns (A2)

Where a rainwater tank is installed to meet the water savings targets, the rainwater tank must be connected to all toilet cisterns in the house. If there is more than one toilet cistern in the house, each and every toilet must be connected to the rainwater tank supply. There is no provision for councils to decrease these minimum requirements.

Continuity of supply (A5)

Internal fixtures must have a continuous supply of water, and where a rainwater tank is installed, supplementary water must be continuously available from the reticulated town water supply. Under the acceptable solution this can only be achieved by using either a trickle top up system or an automatic switching device. A manual switching device does not provide the surety that is required to ensure continuity of supply. For example, a shower may run out of cold water supply from the rainwater tank resulting in only hot water being run to the shower. This provides for the possibility of scalding.

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