



Building and plumbing newsflash

Draft amended codes available for viewing on the department's website

Purpose

To advise that drafts of new and amended codes are available on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning's (DIP) website www.dip.qld.gov.au including:

- new Queensland Development Code (QDC) Mandatory Part 6.1
- amended QDC Mandatory Parts 4.2 and 4.3
- amended Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPWC).

Background

Under section 13 of the *Building Act 1975* the chief executive (Coordinator-General and Director-General) of DIP may amend the existing parts or add new parts to the QDC. However, amendments do not take effect until they have been published on the department's website and a Regulation approves the amendment.

Queensland Development Code

MP 6.1—Maintenance of fire safety installations

As part of Queensland's commitment to the consolidation of building regulations it is proposed to transfer building maintenance provisions from the *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008* into the QDC. The code has been developed to set appropriate performance standards for maintenance of prescribed fire safety installations for the safe occupation of buildings and to specify required maintenance records. The code will reduce regulatory burden by limiting the application of section 17 of Australian Standard AS 1851-2005, with respect to passive fire and smoke containment systems. The code will also simplify occupiers' reporting requirements with a yearly occupier's statement to be completed which confirms that fire safety installations have been maintained.



MP 4.2—Water savings targets and MP4.3—Alternative water sources—commercial buildings

It is proposed to amend QDC MP 4.2 and 4.3 to include labelling requirements for rainwater and water storage tanks which supply water to plumbing fixtures. These amendments will ensure that water carters can clearly identify which tanks on a site can be filled with recycled water. Signs are to have minimum dimensions of 450 mm x 250 mm and are to read 'Warning: Rainwater' (for a rainwater tank) and 'Warning: Recycled/Reclaimed Water—Do not drink' (for a water storage tank).

The Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code

Treated blackwater reuse trials

Amendments to the QPWC are proposed to introduce a new section 6 for trialling of on-site blackwater treatment and reuse for internal (e.g. toilet flushing) and external uses (e.g. irrigation). The trials will be limited to sewered areas of South East Queensland,



limited in number and they can only be undertaken in class 2, 5, 6 and 9b buildings. Trials criteria will not set a limit on the size of the wastewater treatment plant. Expressions of interest will be called by DIP through a newsflash requesting interested parties to submit an application to participate.

Single check backflow prevention devices

The proposed introduction of section 7 and appendix 4 into the QPWC will allow for the installation of testable single check backflow prevention devices and for field testing of testable single check valves. This amendment is in response to submissions from the Association of Hydraulic Services Consultants Australia and the Institute of Plumbing Inspectors Queensland about ongoing problems with current issues associated with backflow requirements for fire services connected to a water service provider's infrastructure. The amendment will also assist with maintaining compliance in the context of pressure reduction management which can potentially affect the performance of fire services such as sprinkler and hydrant systems. The devices have less frictional pressure loss which will assist with fire fighting where there are reduced pressures in the main.

Minor amendments

- The definition of a meterable premise has been amended to include all class 1 buildings.
- Definitions for the new sections 6 and 7 have been added.
- Table T1 is now split into tables T1A and T1B. Table T1A sets the water quality requirements for intended end uses where greywater treatment plants generating <3kL are installed, and Table T1B where greywater treatment plants generating >3kL are installed.

Legislation

- *Building Act 1975*
- *Building Regulation 2006*
- *Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008*
- *Queensland Development Code (QDC)*
- *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002*
- *Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003*
- *Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code*

Contact for further information

Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Building Codes Queensland Division
tel+61 7 3239 6369
buildingcodes@dip.qld.gov.au

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Newsflash is provided by the State of Queensland in good faith. The material is general in nature and before relying on the material in any important matter, users should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purpose. It is not intended as a substitute for consulting the relevant legislation or for obtaining appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances. The State of Queensland cannot accept responsibility or liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense you might incur as a result of the use of or reliance on information contained in this Newsflash. It is not intended to be, and should not be relied upon as the ultimate and/or complete source of information.