

PIPE SIZING AND FLOW RATES FOR HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS

Requirements before 30 April 1998

The *Standard Water Supply Law* in force before 30 April 1998 controlled the installation of domestic water heaters. The then Joint Committee authorised AS 3500.4: 1990 as the specification for their installation. These requirements applied only to the installation of the water heater and did not cover the associated pipework, fittings or fixtures.

Current requirements

From 30 April 1998, all domestic hot water supply systems in Queensland must comply with AS 3500: Part 4 - 1997, unless exempted by the transitional provisions in the current *Standard Water Supply Law*. AS 3500.4.2: 1997 is the minimum required standard and work complying with this code must be accepted by all local governments.

Despite AS 3500.4.2:1997 being adopted as a uniform deemed to satisfy standard across the State, the Department is aware of it being incorrectly applied by some local governments.

Appendix C and D of AS 3500.4.2:1997 are informative appendices. These appendices give information which can be used by the designer to assist in the design of a complete individual hot water installation, taking into account all other relevant design matters including the type of water heater to be installed. The pipe sizing and flow rate information in these appendices cannot be enforced by local governments.

Summary

The status of appendices is made quite clear in the preface of individual Australian Standards. The preface clearly states that a normative appendix is an integral part of the Standard, while an informative appendix is included for information and guidance

There is no precedent to apply appendices C and D of AS 3500.4.2:1997 mandatorily, as earlier editions of the standard also included this information for guidance only. In any case, these provisions in the earlier standards were not enforceable, as they were not called up by the previous *Standard Water Supply Law*

The Department will be approaching Standards Australia to recommend that an acceptable solution which reflects proven and accepted industry installation practices, is included in the standard.