

WaterMark Certification

A Guide to the WaterMark Certification Scheme (WMCS)

All products designed for plumbing and drainage purposes in Australia must comply with the requirements set out by the Plumbing Regulators. In 2005, the new WaterMark Certification Scheme (WMCS) was introduced to replace the National Certification of Plumbing and Drainage Products Scheme (NCPDPS), which was identified by the use of **StandardsMark, WaterMark and Plumbing Safety TypeTest Mark** on certified products. The WaterMark Certification Scheme identifies certified plumbing products by the use of a single **WaterMark** certification mark.

The objective of the new 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 procedures and technical requirements of these schemes are identified in Standards Australia documents, which can be purchased from SAI Global website <http://www.sai-global.com>

NCPDPS - MP52:2001

WMCS - AS 5200.000:2005 or MP52: 2005.

The Plumbing Regulators have given a 5-year period for the transition to the WaterMark Scheme. This enables the manufacturers and the suppliers of plumbing products and the certification bodies to manage the changeover, including any revised marking, from the NCPDPS to the WMCS.

CERTIFICATION LEVELS

In the WaterMark Scheme, approval is based on the certification of products to nominated Standards and Technical Specifications as listed in MP52:2005/AS 5200.000:2005, and to a Certification Level generally related to a product's application within the plumbing system.

Products that are not specifically listed can be assessed if authorisation is required by the development of a Technical Specification and the allocation of a Certification Level.

Below is a brief outline of the types of products covered by each certification level and the basics of the certification process.

WaterMark (WMK) Level 1



WaterMark Level 1 certification is generally applied to products that are installed in the hot or cold water supply system. Typical product groups that fall under this certification level are:

*Water Heaters
Hot and Cold Water Supply Pipes and Fittings
Taps and Valves
Sanitary Fixtures - Water Closets, Bidet/Bidettes
Appliances (High Hazard)
Water Filters and Water Treatment Devices*


The certification process comprises of:

1. **Product design review** and independent testing to determine product compliance with the relevant Australian or International Standard, or Australian Technical Specification (ATS) as identified in AS 5200/MP52. The Standard or Technical Specification addresses requirements, such as:

- Materials used for the product.
- Design specifics
- Performance and functionality, including durability
- Marking and installation instructions.

2. **Initial and ongoing assessment of the product manufacture** and associated quality plan. The certification procedures are defined in the WaterMark Level 1 Product Compliance Program (PCP), which is available on the SAI Global website <http://www.sai-global.com.au/>.

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<p>WaterMark (WMK) Level 2</p> 	<p>WaterMark Level 2 certification is generally applied to products that are installed in the sanitary and drainage system. Typical product groups that fall under this certification level are:</p> <p><i>Sanitary and Drainage Pipes and Fittings</i> <i>Sanitary and Drainage Valves</i> <i>Appliances (Low/Medium Hazard)</i></p> <p>The certification process comprises of the design review and independent testing as in the WaterMark Level 1 Certification. However, as no assessment of the manufacturing processes is involved, the Certificate has an expiry date. As part of the renewal process for a further period, a reassessment process applies, and this normally requires further independent testing.</p>
<p>Unlisted Products</p>	<p>When the product is not specifically listed in AS 5200.000/MP52, separate procedures are in place to establish whether certification is required, the Standard that may be applicable and the appropriate certification level.</p> <p>Full details of these procedures can be found in AS 5200.000 or via contacting SAI Global.</p>

TECHNICAL CHANGES

In addition to changes in terms of the certification process and the WMCS single Mark, there are some technical changes involved. These relate to the referenced Standards in the revised scheme as documented in AS5200.000: 2005 or MP52: 2005 and include:

- Creation of Australian Technical Specifications (ATs) for the specifications in the previous versions of MP52.
- Deletion of some Specifications where an Australian Standard is available.
- Changes to certification levels for some product types, and removal of some product types from the scheme that either do not require certification or are recognized as having limited application in plumbing installations.
- General review that includes direct referencing to a relevant Standard where one existed.

The following table summarizes these changes.

	Product Type	Previous Minimum Requirement (MP52:2001)		Revised Requirement (MP52:2005/AS5200:2005)	
Infrastructure Products	Tapping Bands	MP52 Spec. 025	WMK	No longer included	
	Ductile Iron Pipe and Fittings for pressure applications	AS 2280	SMK		
	Access Covers and Grates	AS 3996	SMK		
	Grey Cast Iron Pipes and Fittings for pressure applications	AS 1631	SMK		
	Water Meters	AS 3565	SMK		
	Spring Hydrants	AS 3952	SMK		
Certification level has changed up	Water Filter And Treatment Systems	AS 3497	PSTT	AS 3497	WMK 1
		MP 52 Spec. 103	PSTT	ATS 5200.103	WMK 1
	Bed Pan Washers	MP 52 Spec. 101	PSTT	ATS 5200.104	WMK 1
Certification level has changed down	Non Pressure Pipes and Fittings – Sanitary Drainage	MP52 Spec 005	WMK	Relevant Standard	WMK 2
	Fixtures - Urinals	MP52 Spec 022	WMK	AS 3982	WMK 2
Products where Certification no longer required	Fixtures without included wastes	MP52 Spec 029	PSTT	Certification is not required	

Legend: StandardsMark (SMK), WaterMark (WMK), Plumbing Safety Type Test Mark (PSTT)

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	<p>Timing</p> <p>The time you will need to achieve certification depends largely on how well prepared you are to implement the process.</p> <p>For a simple WaterMark Level 2 certification, a certificate can be issued within 2 weeks from the time you submit a complete complying test report and other technical documentation.</p> <p>For WaterMark Level 1 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>Fees</p> <p>Fees vary in accordance with the level of certification required, the product type, the number of products requiring certification, and the location and size of the site/s of manufacture (WaterMark Level 1). The Fees are set out in separate fee schedules available upon request from SAI Global.</p> <p>Email: product@sai-global.com</p>
	<p>Further Information</p> <p>To find out more detail on which Standard or Technical Specification and Certification Level applies to a particular product please review AS 5200/MP52 or contact SAI Global directly.</p> <p>Further information is available on our website under 'Assurance Services' http://www.sai-global.com</p> <p>You are invited to contact us via email on product@sai-global.com or via phone</p> <p>Australia/Asia: +61 2 8206 6322 Europe: +44 (0) 1926 85 4111 USA: +1 (419) 861 1689</p>
SAI Global Expertise	<p>SAI Global Limited is a leading assurance, business publishing, compliance and training organisation with offices in Australia, New Zealand, North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>