

Adoption of the Plumbing Code of Australia 2025 and standards update

This industry bulletin has been issued to inform the plumbing industry about changes coming into effect on 1 May 2026 in Western Australia (WA). The changes apply to the following legislation:

- **Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000.**
- **Plumbing Code of Australia.**
- **Australian Standards AS/NZS 3500: Parts 1, 2, and 4.**

The Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000 (Regulations) call up the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) as the primary standard that applies to plumbing work in WA. The PCA in turn references the AS/NZS 3500 Plumbing and drainage series (AS/NZS 3500) as deemed-to-satisfy (DtS) solutions.

Commencing 1 May 2026, the Regulations will adopt the 2025 edition of the PCA (PCA 2025) as the primary standard that applies to plumbing work in WA, replacing the 2022 edition. PCA 2025 adopts the 2025 edition of AS/NZS 3500 Parts 1, 2, and 4, replacing the 2021 edition of these standards.

It is important to note that the Regulations only call up the PCA as it relates to regulated water supply, sanitary and drainage plumbing work. For example, 'Section D Excessive noise' of the PCA is not regulated plumbing work.

WA variations to PCA 2025

Commencing 1 May 2026, the modifications to certain provisions in the PCA and AS/NZS 3500 to suit WA specific requirements will be found within PCA 2025 Schedule 11, as WA variations.

Regulation 49, which previously contained these requirements, will be deleted.

Changes in PCA 2025 applicable to regulated plumbing work

The following information provides an overview of key changes in PCA 2025.

Further information on the changes in PCA 2025 can be found on the [Australian Building Codes Board \(ABCB\) website](#).

Section A: Part A1 Interpreting the NCC

Governing requirement A4G1 has been amended to implement a register of alternative referenced documents that will be maintained live on the ABCB website. This will allow the use of standards published outside of the usual PCA amendment cycle to be used as current DtS solutions.

Section B: Part B1 Cold water services

Performance requirements for cold water services have been reworded for clarity.

A new verification method for sizing cold water services has been included, which can be used as evidence to demonstrate compliance with the relevant performance requirements of the PCA.

Section B: Part B2 Heated water services

Performance requirements for heated water services have been reworded for clarity.

Section B: Part B3 Non-drinking water services

Performance requirements for non-drinking water services have been reworded for clarity.

Section B: Part B5 Cross connection control

Part B5 Cross connection control has been amended to include the list of protection types and hazard ratings for specific situations. These items were previously located in 'Specification 41', which has now been deleted.

Section B: Part B6 Rainwater services

Performance requirements for rainwater services have been reworded for clarity.

Section C: Part C1 Sanitary plumbing systems

Performance requirements for sanitary systems have been reworded for clarity. Improvements have been made to the verification method for sizing sanitary systems.

Section C: Part C2 Sanitary drainage systems

Performance requirements for drainage systems have been reworded for clarity.

Schedule 2, Referenced documents

PCA 2025, Schedule 2, Referenced documents adopts the new 2025 editions of AS/NZS 3500, Parts 1, 2 and 4, as DtS solutions.

Changes to AS/NZS 3500:2025, Parts 1, 2 and 4

Some technical requirements have been added, existing provisions updated, as well as editorial and format changes to introduce plain language in clauses.

Key changes in the AS/NZS 3500:2025 series include, but are not limited to, the following:

AS/NZS 3500:2025 - Part 1 Water services

Section	Description of change to clause, figure or table
All Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduction of plain language. For example, changing 'where' to 'if' where the meaning is conditional and changing 'appropriate to' to 'suitable for'.
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clause 2.3.2.2: Specified classes of flexible hose assemblies have been added for hoses used between fixed points, for trigger sprays and low pressure use at the end of the hose.Clause 2.3.2.3: Provisions added to identify flexible hoses suitable for differing operating temperatures. Hoses marked by 'L' for temperatures up to 70°C and marked 'H' for temperatures up to 90°C.Clause 2.3.2.4: Provisions added as extra rigour for flexible hoses to be submerged in water. Hoses marked 'S' for submersion.Clause 2.3.3: Provisions added for semi-rigid connectors to be installed in accessible locations and not buried or used where repeated movement is expected.
Section 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Table 4.4.1: Atmospheric vacuum breakers are now classed as a testable device.
Section 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clause 5.4.2(l): Provision added for the installation of isolating valves on flexible hoses to mixer taps and cisterns.Clause 5.20: Provisions added for the installation of miscellaneous devices and appliances that will negate the need for a performance based solution for the installation of such devices.

AS/NZS 3500:2025 - Part 2 Sanitary plumbing and drainage

Section	Description of change to clause, figure or table
All Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of plain language. For example, from 'where' to 'if' where the meaning is conditional and changing 'appropriate to' to 'suitable for'. • Changes some numerical expressions. For example, grades in pipes were expressed as "1 in 5" or "1 in 100" which is now changed to "1:5" and "1:100" respectively.
Section 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 13.24: Provisions are inserted for the installation of waterless urinals to increase the diameter and grades of discharge pipes to allow for the build-up of struvite that can cause blockages. • Clause 13.24.2.1: The mandatory provision for a floor waste gully to be installed in a room with a waterless urinal has been removed although it is still required under the National Construction Code, Volume One. • Clause 13.28: Provisions added for the installation of miscellaneous devices and appliances that will negate the need for a performance based solution for the installation of such devices.
Section 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised text for ease of reading and additional figure 14.2.5 showing the construction of a maintenance shaft has been added. <p>The note allowing a single overflow relief gully in a unit development with a separation of 150 mm been removed. This means an overflow relief gully with separation of 150 mm or a reflux valve is required on each individual unit.</p>
Section 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clause 16.2: Provisions added to allow the use of polypropylene pipes and fittings for vacuum drainage systems.

AS/NZS 3500:2025 - Part 4 Heated water services

Section	Description of change to clause, figure or table
All Sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of plain language. For example, from 'where' to 'if' where the meaning is conditional and changing 'appropriate to' to 'suitable for'.
Section 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 2.3.2.2: Specified classes of flexible hose assemblies have been added for hoses used between fixed points, for trigger sprays and low pressure use at the end of the hose. Clause 2.3.2.3: Provisions added to identify flexible hoses suitable for differing operating temperatures. Hoses marked by 'L' for temperatures up to 70°C and marked 'H' for temperatures up to 90°C. Clause 2.3.2.4: Provisions added as extra rigour for flexible hoses to be submerged in water. Hoses marked 'S' for submersion. Clause 2.3.3: Provisions added for semi-rigid connectors to be installed in accessible locations and not buried or used where repeated movement is expected.
Section 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clause 10.10.2(j): In circulatory heated water systems, provision added for mandatory isolation valves before each flexible hose assembly connected to a mixer valve or tap outlet.

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