



Metering regulations

The *Rights in Water and Irrigation Amendment Regulations 2018*, enacted on 18 February 2018, relate primarily to the Rights in Water and Irrigation Regulations 2000 Part 4A – Meters.

The regulations

Under the new regulations, certain licensees must:

- Install a meter on each water draw-point.
- Ensure the meter and installation complies with the Rights in Water and Irrigation (Approved meters) Order 2009.
- Provide the following details of the installation (within 30 days):
 - Coordinate references relating to the location of the meter or another approved description of its location
 - Date of installation
 - Meter reading at the time of installation
 - Make, size, type and serial number of the meter.

After the meter is installed drawings or annotated photographs of the meter should be taken and must show:

- the length of pipe connecting the draw-point to the upstream flange of the meter
- the length of pipe between the downstream flange of the meter and the first-bend or take-off
- the direction of the water flow through the meter.

A copy of the manufacturer's specifications for installation of the meter or written advice from the person who installed the meter that it complies with the manufacturer's specifications for installation must also be provided.

Licensees are to ensure the meter is maintained, in good working order and operating within a range of plus or minus five per cent of the quantity of water that actually passes through it, when tested in field conditions.

Under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Regulations 2000 it is an offence to damage a meter; or install, or alter, a meter or any associated fittings so that the meter does not accurately measure the quantity of water being taken from a well.

Licensees are required to:

- Record the meter reading at the end of each month
- Report meter readings to the department within 30 days after the end of the relevant water year (unless approved to provide an annual abstraction volume)
- Notify the department within seven days of detecting a malfunction of the meter.

Meter readings must be submitted via the department's Water Online metering portal, unless otherwise approved by the department. To enable the online submission of meter readings, meters must first be registered in the metering portal against the relevant water licence by entering some key meter installation details.

When do the requirements apply?

The new metering regulations will affect licences issued under Section 5C of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, with an annual water entitlement of -

500,000 kL or more	from 31 March 2018
50,000 kL to 499,000 kL	from 31 December 2018
10,000 kL to 49,999 kL in the Gngangara groundwater plan area	from 31 December 2019
10,000 kL to 49,999 kL In all other areas	from 31 December 2020

The regulations **do not** apply if

- the licence is issued for less than 12 months
- the licence relates to a single user dam
- the department has approved an alternative method for measuring the take of water, or
- the licence is exempt from all forms of measurement.

Alternative measurement

The department may approve alternative forms of measurement, for example, for in-stream dams (where metering may not be practical) and in situations where the licensed water take requires more comprehensive monitoring (most likely in addition to metering). This will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Alternative forms of measurement approved for surface water may include but not be limited to dam surveys, installation of staff gauges, or monitoring of water levels.

Exemptions

In some cases, where measurement will provide minimal benefit to water resource management, licensees may be exempt from measuring their water take. A licensee may be exempt from the requirement to measure the quantity of water taken under a licence if the department is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is impracticable to fit a meter and it is also inappropriate to use an alternative measurement method for measuring the quantity of water taken.

Penalties

Failure to comply with these requirements is an offence and attracts a penalty of \$2000 and daily penalty of \$200 under prosecution. The department may elect to deal with the offence by way of a modified penalty (i.e. issue an infringement) of \$400.

If a licensee fails to comply with the regulations, the department also may formally direct a licensee to comply. The licensee commits an offence if they do not comply with the direction within the specified time-frame and the department may do all or part of whatever the direction requires to be done (such as fitting a meter), and recover the costs from the licensee.

More information

For more information about your responsibilities see our brochure '[Metering your water use](#)' and answers to Frequently Asked Questions on our website at www.dwer.wa.gov.au. Go to Water > Licensing > Metering and measurement.

You can see a full transcript of the regulations and the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* at the State Law Publisher's website at www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.

You can use our online services to manage all of your licensing and metering needs. Register for water online at www.dwer.wa.gov.au >Water> Home > Water Online.