Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Housing and Works**

DHW Technical Guideline

TG037 Water Efficiency

1. Purpose

This technical guideline outlines the Department of Housing and Works (DHW) requirements for water efficiency in the selection of fittings and fixtures in all new non-residential government building and maintenance projects.

2. Requirements

All fixtures and fittings shall comply with the WELS Standard and meet or exceed the minimum requirements outlined below. Where the minimum requirements below are exceeded by revisions to the National Construction Code (NCC), the requirements of the revised NCC will take precedence.

- A tap must be a minimum of 5 Star WELS rated and discharge not more than 6 litres per minute.
- A shower must be a minimum of 3 Star WELS rated and discharge not more than 9 litres per minute.[1]
- Cisterns or flushing devices for water closets must[2] -
    - Have a dual flushing mechanism; and
    - Be a minimum 4 Star WELS rating discharging not more than 3.5 litres for an average flush
- Cisterns or flushing devices for urinals must –
    - Be a minimum of 5 Star WELS rating discharging a volume of not more than 1 litre for each –
- Single urinal stall; or
    - 600mm length of continuous urinal wall; and

Exemptions

[1] This requirement is not intended to apply to a shower intended to provide rapid drenching of a person for emergency purposes, such as chemical removal.

[2,3] These requirements do not apply to a vacuum drainage system.

- Not be set-cycled or activated by any method other than manual or use activation[3]

The above outlines the minimum level of water efficiency for products and fixtures. The adoption of products and technologies of greater efficiency is encouraged.

3. References

1. *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme* https://www.waterrating.gov.au/
2. *AS/NZS 6400 Water Efficient Products* - Rating and labelling, provides the basis for the rating and labelling of a range of products under the mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme.

[3] This requirement does not apply to a programmed solenoid operated flushing system if programmed to shut down during extended periods of non-occupancy of a building. Where sensor control is used for urinal flushing, sensors should be located to avoid unnecessary ‘nuisance’ flushing triggered by pedestrian traffic.

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