WaterMark Certification Scheme

Notice of Direction 2022/4.0

Annual factory inspections for lead free plumbing products

Intent

This notice is to provide direction on the requirement for annual factory inspections for WaterMark lead free certified products.

Background

This Notice of Direction is provided in accordance with clause 5(c) of the Rules for the WaterMark Certification Scheme.

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) decided to limit the allowable lead content in plumbing products, which contain copper alloys and are intended for use in contact with drinking water, to a weighted average lead content of not more than 0.25%.

Clause A5G4(2) of NCC Volume Three 2022 (at **Attachment 1**) outlines the requirements for any plumbing product containing copper alloy and intended for use in contact with drinking water, as well as the means for demonstrating evidence of suitability to those requirements. A transition period has been provided from adoption of NCC 2022 until 31 August 2025 to conform to those requirements.

From 1 September 2025, A5G4(2) of the NCC Volume Three will take effect. Only products WaterMark certified as conforming to the lead free requirements, where required, will be authorised for use in plumbing installations.

The WaterMark Certification Scheme Manual clause **8.5.1 VI** requires annual product conformity surveillance to be undertaken by WaterMark Conformity Assessment Bodies (WMCABs) including product inspection. Clause **8.5.1 I.** of the Manual requires factory inspections to be undertaken by WMCABs for all WaterMark certified products during initial product assessment and five-yearly re-certification.