

THE NEW AUSTRALIAN QAS STANDARD AND THE WELS LABELLING STANDARD

This means that:

1. **WELS** - All sink, basin, laundry tub taps and basin and sink mixers, replacement outlets and all shower sets and showertherapy showers have under gone new WELS testing and have been registered, rated and WELS labelled. WELS does not apply to Bath or Spa Tapware. This means we have had to under go full laboratory testing to achieve certain water flow limits using improved aerators and special flow restrictors on our showers AS/NZS 3662:2005 – shower performance new Standard. We have had to achieve another Standard AS/NZS 4020 – a health certification on our flow restrictors in our tapware. We also had to achieve the European Standard DIN EN 1113 on endurance testing for our showertherapy shower hoses and vegie mixer hoses as specified AS/NZS 3662:2005, clause 5.4. We have made changes to all our installation instructions and included extra info on our tap and showertherapy packaging and attached our WELS label according to new WELS regulations. All new product imported by us is WELS compliant. Our WELS ratings appear gazetted on the WELS website www.waterrating.gov.au. New WELS standard is AS/NZS 6400:2005. It is unlawful for retailers to sell or other people to import and install non WELS labelled Tapware & Showers. Penalties apply and insurances are grave risk.

Retailers had a window till 31st December 2006 in which to sell off old non WELS stock. The actual WELS label is fixed to the front of all packaged product. Any display stock at retailers must be labelled either on a price ticket, swing tag or sticker. Any brochures or catalogue / magazine, internet advertising must detail the appropriate WELS label or information.

Unfortunately there has been no “policing” of conformity to these Standards at this stage: the whole Standard has been left to “self-regulating”, i.e. retailers and plumbers are refusing to sell or install non WELS labelled products but the Government Regulator has NOT audited or taken action against non WELS labelled product being imported, advertised or sold. Some State Governments are legislating for so called “5 Star” housing – where new buildings must adhere to energy saving criteria - once again – no uniformity.

2. **QAS** (Quality Assurance Standard) - All Brewer tapware bodies have been manufactured to the Australian Standard “WaterMark” AS/NZS 3718 (our Licence number is WMKA21352 and our partner factory Licence is SMK02260 which is stamped on all 3 hole tapware spindles and mixer bodies). Our ceramic discs are manufactured to the Australian Standard “Standardsmark” AS/NZS 3718 (Licence number is SMK02352 which is stamped on all ceramic disc spindles and ceramic disc cartridges). Our mixer flexible hoses are manufactured to the Australian Standard “Watermark” AS/NZS 3499 (Licence number is W665 which is stamped and labelled on each hose). This is sometimes referred to as “QAS” and is administered by SAI Global through the Govt JAS/ANZ body who grant and audit our factory to ensure the tapware is manufactured to the Standard including the use of special brass called “DR” brass (Dezincified resistant). :The plumbing Regulation which is managed through the National Plumbing Regulators Forum (NPRF) through state legislation which impacts at the point of installation. So anyone can sell non WaterMarked products without it being against the law.

The legalities arise when the Plumber installs the product that is connected to the water supply. That product MUST have a WaterMark certification (or in some cases StandardsMark certification, such as infrastructure products and gas/plumbing products). This is policed by NPRF and the ACCC, so we know of situations when a whole building or group of buildings’ plumbing products have had to be replaced.”

