



ABCB



**National
Construction
Code**

Plumbing Code of Australia Resources



*A plumbing or drainage solution
will comply with the Plumbing Code
if it satisfies the Performance
Requirements... **which are the legal
requirements of the Code.***

Designed for practitioners, administrators, students and educators in the plumbing sector

To support the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA) and assist all those working in the plumbing industry, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) develops a range of resources.

All materials described within, and more, are available to you free from the ABCB website, abcb.gov.au.

Neil Savery
Chief Executive Officer, ABCB

The ABCB



The ABCB is a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Standards writing body that is responsible for the PCA. The PCA is Volume Three of the National Construction Code (NCC). The NCC comprises of three volumes, with the Building Code of Australia (BCA) being Volumes One and Two. The PCA was introduced into the NCC in 2012.

The ABCB's mission is to address issues of safety and health, amenity and accessibility, and sustainability in the design, construction and performance of buildings whilst also being a regulatory reform vehicle for COAG.

In 2015, the NCC was made freely available online ensuring all those involved in the Australian construction industry can access this important information. This helps ensure the continued construction of better, safer and more sustainable buildings.

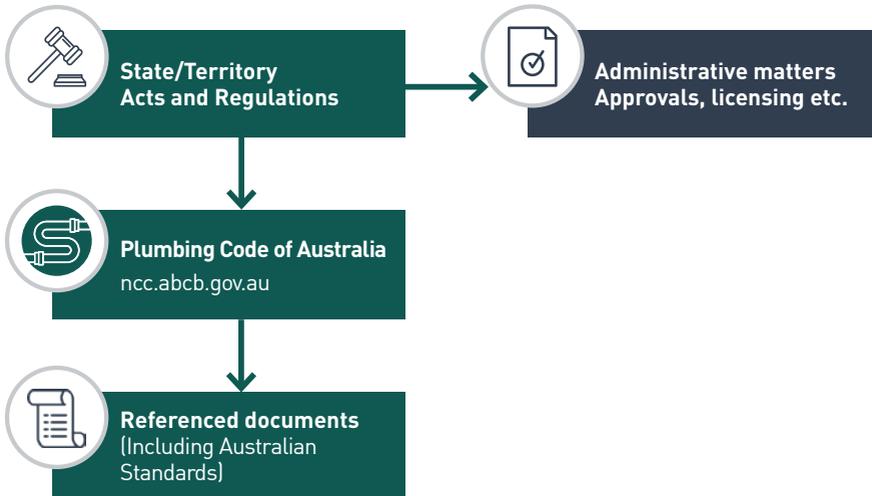
A 2012 report by the Centre for International Economics found that building regulatory reforms implemented progressively over the last 20 years are delivering \$1.1 billion per annum in benefits, with an additional \$1.1 billion per annum in potential benefits yet to be realised. Many of the materials detailed within will assist with the realisation of these benefits through a better understanding of the NCC as a performance-based code.

The ABCB operates under the Inter-Government Agreement endorsed by the Commonwealth, States and Territories, which sets out its mission, objectives and functions.

Plumbing regulations in Australia

Where does the PCA fit, and why do I need to comply?

The PCA is given legal effect by the relevant legislation within each State and Territory. In conjunction with the legislation it provides industry with the minimum legal requirements for plumbing and drainage installations.



The State and Territory Acts ensure objectives are met for the benefit of the community.

The State and Territory Regulations direct us to what we ‘must’ do to ensure the objectives are met.

The PCA is the critical link between the regulations and developing plumbing solutions ensuring they perform in a manner which meets the regulatory obligations.

The Referenced documents, such as the AS/NZS 3500 series, provide much of the ‘Deemed-to-Satisfy’ Solutions for ‘on-the-ground’ installations.

The PCA

As the third Volume of the NCC, the PCA's goal is to...

... enable the achievement of nationally consistent, minimum necessary standards of relevant safety and health, amenity and accessibility; and sustainability objectives efficiently.

The PCA also contains advice on requirements in NCC Volumes One and Two (the Building Code of Australia) that plumbing practitioners should be aware of. These requirements may impact on a plumbing or drainage installation and are identified in the PCA as “cross-volume considerations” in explanatory information boxes.

Every plumbing practitioner needs to be familiar with the requirements of the PCA.



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Why should you register for access to the PCA?

Registering for the PCA will not only provide you with free access, but also ensures you will receive important updates and relevant information about the Code. The website also provides you with an ever-increasing amount of:

- practitioner materials for download and online viewing;
- education and learning materials for practitioners, students, educators and trainers; and
- videos, webcasts and presentations.

These products and materials are designed for all levels of knowledge and experience within the plumbing and construction related industries.

How to access the PCA?

The PCA can be accessed through the ABCB website, ncc.abcb.gov.au. It can be downloaded or easily navigated through the online platform.

What does the PCA cover?

The PCA covers all aspects of plumbing and drainage and sets out the minimum requirements for the construction, installation, replacement, repair and maintenance of plumbing systems, specifically:

- Water services
- Sanitary plumbing and drainage systems
- Excessive noise
- Facilities

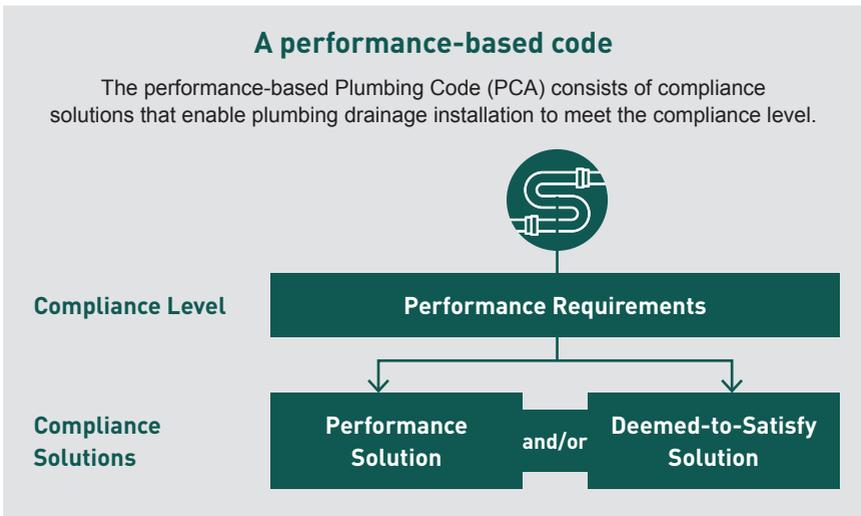
These sections are adopted through the PCA by legislation within the States and Territories.

Each section identifies the mandatory Performance Requirements.

The Performance Requirements of the PCA can only be satisfied by -

- a) developing a Performance Solution; or
- b) using the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions; or
- c) a combination of (a) and (b).

The AS/NZS 3500 series of Standards form part of the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions of the PCA.



The PCA & Performance Solutions

A Performance Solution allows you the flexibility to comply with the plumbing and drainage requirements as an option to the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions through referenced documents such as the AS/NZS 3500 series. Developing a Performance Solution provides the plumbing sector with opportunities to undertake innovative plumbing and drainage work.

A range of performance guidance material is available from the ABCB website. It provide practitioners with information on how performance is achieved using a variety of examples.

To find out more on these options, visit the ABCB's resource library at abcb.gov.au.



Case studies

With the assistance of industry, a series of case studies are available. These include real life examples of the practical application of Performance Solutions - covering residential and commercial buildings.



Flow charts

To help navigate through the ABCB's extensive resource library an interactive flow chart is available. The flow chart contains information and links to key ABCB plumbing resources for Performance Solutions. The chart provides a short description of each resource and guidance on the sequence in which each resource should be read.

PCA resources

The ABCB website provides an increasing range of downloadable resources for the benefit of practitioners, administrators, students, educators and trainers within the plumbing industry and assists those working with the PCA and the NCC more broadly.



Handbooks

Although predominantly building related, the handbooks contain elements of plumbing specific content. Non-mandatory Handbooks provide practitioners with information and guidance on specific topics in the NCC or those considered unsuitable for regulation through the NCC.

A plumbing specific Handbook covering cross-connection control was released in early 2019.



Gutters, Downpipes and Overflow Calculator

The Gutters, Downpipes and Overflow (GDO) Calculator assists in developing a better understanding of the NCC Volume Two Part 3.5.3 Gutters and Downpipes Acceptable Construction Practice (ACP) provisions. The GDO Calculator requires information about the location, roof design and types of overflow measures to help determine the allowable gutter types, downpipe sizes and whether the selected overflow measures are adequate. It is a MS Excel file and uses data contained in NCC Volume Two for the calculations.



Understanding the NCC

The Understanding the NCC series provides information in 'plain language' on both building and plumbing requirements. These resources include topics such as, complying with the NCC, Assessment Methods, gutters and downpipes, energy efficiency and building classifications.



YouTube videos

A series of YouTube videos are made available for viewing from the ABCB YouTube channel, these include:

- The National Construction Code: a Performance Based Code
- What is the PCA
- What's in the PCA
- NCC Online Navigation

Educational resources



NCC Tutor

NCC Tutor is an "ABCB Licenced Product" developed specifically for education providers. It contains a series of PowerPoint presentations with lecture notes and assessment questions. The product allows educators to include their organisation's logo and branding and it has the flexibility to be delivered through the medium that best meets your training needs, whether that be workshops, lectures, classes or webinars.

NCC Tutor covers several plumbing related topics including:

- NCC Volume Three (PCA)
- The Australian Regulatory Framework
- Using the NCC and NCC: A Performance Based Code



NCC Seminar videos

A series of videos of the NCC Seminar sessions are made available for viewing from the ABCB website.

Important information about PCA amendments and WaterMark are made available through the NCC Seminar videos.

ABCB Cadetship Program

The ABCB Cadetship Program is a 12 month placement at the ABCB, offering applicants the opportunity to further develop their working knowledge and skills within the building and construction industry.

Applicants require good communication, sound research capabilities and strong team work skills. We're generally interested in applicants with a background in Plumbing, Hydraulic Design or associated fields.

Applications typically open in March and close in mid-September for the following year's intake.



WaterMark

WaterMark is a mandatory certification scheme for plumbing and drainage products to ensure they are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use in plumbing and drainage installations. The ABCB manages and administers WaterMark as a national scheme.

The PCA requires certain plumbing and drainage products to be certified and authorised for use in a plumbing or drainage installation.

A comprehensive listing of products predetermined as requiring WaterMark certification - including product types and application, specifications and exemptions - is contained on the WaterMark Schedule of Products. Likewise, the WaterMark Schedule of Excluded Products details products that have been predetermined as not requiring WaterMark certification. The ABCB will keep these documents updated as new products undergo risk assessment and as specifications are approved for use or suspended.

Products complying with these requirements may be certified and authorised for use upon the granting of a WaterMark licence. Licensed materials and products are to be listed on the WaterMark Product Database identified by the WaterMark trade mark, which must be displayed on the material or product.

To support the operation and management of WaterMark, the ABCB provides a variety of resources, available from the WaterMark website, watermark.abcb.gov.au.



WaterMark resources

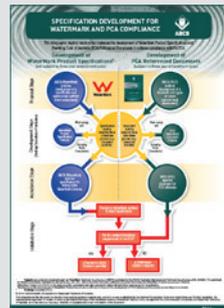
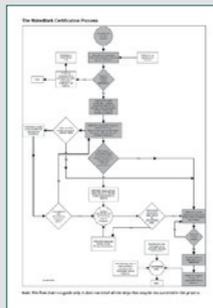
WaterMark Certification Scheme Manual

The Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme details the operating structure of the Scheme, and the process and procedural requirements for the certification of plumbing and drainage products. The Manual includes the Rules for the WaterMark Certification Scheme and the Approved Certifier and Approved User Agreements, as approved by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. It also contains the Protocol for the Assessment of Risks of Plumbing Products and the Protocol for Developing Product Specifications.



Scheme information

There is a range of supporting material available that provides essential information about how the WaterMark Scheme operates and is managed. This includes general information, how specifications are developed for WaterMark and PCA compliance and how the certification process works.



WaterMark Technical Specifications

WaterMark Technical Specifications (WMTS) are individual product specifications, published by the ABCB, that are referenced in the Schedule of products to enable the evaluation and certification of products under WaterMark in accordance with the Manual for the WaterMark Certification Scheme. There are over 50 WMTS available for download and can be found from the WaterMark website.

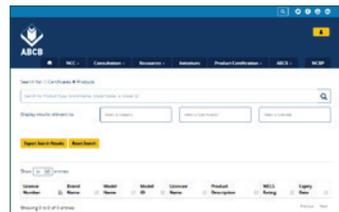


Other Specifications

Other product specifications or standards which are referenced in the Schedule of Products are developed and published by third parties. These product specifications include but are not limited to Australian (AS) or Australian/New Zealand (AS/NZS) standards, European Standards (EN), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standards and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Standards.

WaterMark Product Database

The WaterMark Product Database lists products that have been certified and marked in accordance with the requirements of the WaterMark Certification Scheme. These products are recognised by authorities having jurisdiction as being authorised for use in a plumbing or drainage installation. You can access the database from the WaterMark website.



YouTube videos

A series of WaterMark videos are made available for viewing from the ABCB YouTube channel.

watermark.abcb.gov.au

Stay up-to-date

ABCB Connect

ABCB Connect is the ABCB's online publication. It provides information on regulatory, design, building and plumbing issues and developments. The articles are developed by the ABCB and sourced nationally through State & Territory building and plumbing administrations, industry associations and professionals.

ABCB Connect is sent to NCC registered users every two months. Ensure you are an NCC registered user to receive notification when it's released, or visit the ABCB website.



Social media

The ABCB's social media presence is growing! We're active on Facebook and LinkedIn. So stay up to date by following us or let others know what's going on by sharing our posts.

Search ABCB or enter the links below.



facebook.com/ABCB.NCC



linkedin.com/company/Australian-Building-Codes-Board

FAQs

The ABCB website contains all of our most Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's). They answer a range of questions from how to access the NCC, to IT system requirements and printing options. A series of FAQ's for various NCC technical matters is also provided.

[FAQs](#)



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