

Key Project Proposal Processes for the Plumbing Sector

AS/NZS 3500 Series

Anyone wishing to propose a new standards development project to update the AS/NZS 3500 series will need to complete and submit the Proposal Form available from Standards Australia's website www.standards.org.au. Proponents are encouraged to contact Standards Australia's Water & Waste Services National Sector Manager as early as possible to discuss their proposal and to receive advice on how to complete the Proposal Form.

Project Proposals will be considered if the following criteria are appropriately addressed:

- Demonstrated need for the work
- Clear scope of work to address the need
- Net Benefit
- Evidence of wide-spread relevant stakeholder support

Proponents must engage with the relevant stakeholders, including the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), as part of the project proposal consultation. This will also allow for direct feedback and any necessary changes to occur before final submission to Standards Australia. The ABCB requires four weeks to consider a project proposal.

Key Dates

To ensure that the priorities for AS/NZS 3500 series can be considered for 2022 National Construction Code (NCC), proponents must be strategic with project proposal submissions to align with the NCC three year amendment cycle. The below describes key dates for AS/NZS 3500 series and NCC 2022.

3 years prior to NCC deadline – Project Proposals

Project Proposals to update AS/NZS 3500 series must demonstrate a positive value to the community and be supported by relevant stakeholders for acceptance. There must be a clear demonstrated need to update the AS/NZS 3500 series, to reduce unnecessary churn.

For NCC consideration, final intake of proposals to update AS/NZS 3500 series will occur in the project proposal round three years prior to the NCC amendment deadline. The August - September 2018 round will be the cut-off for NCC 2022 referencing.

This is to allow sufficient time for drafting work to be included in the AS/NZS 3500 series public comment period and to meet the ABCB's NCC cut off. Proposals received after the cut-off can be considered for inclusion in the following NCC edition.

1 June 2020 – Drafting Schedule

Once the technical work for AS/NZS 3500 series has been agreed to, all drafting must be completed by 1 June the year prior to the NCC amendment deadline i.e. 1 June 2020 for NCC 2022. This will

allow sufficient time for public comment, ballot and necessary ABCB approval to occur before the NCC amendment deadline.

1 May 2021 – Publication

AS/NZS 3500 updated documents must be ready to be published and required to be submitted to the ABCB before the 1 May NCC amendment deadline. This is to occur in the year prior to the year of publication of the next edition of the NCC i.e. 1 May 2021 for NCC 2022.

1 May 2022 – NCC Adopted

NCC 2022 will be adopted by States and Territories on 1 May 2022.

Standards Australia WaterMark Product Specifications

In regards to the development of a Standards Australia WaterMark product specifications (Technical Specification or Australian Standard), in the first instance a WaterMark Conformity Assessment Body (WMCAB) should be contacted. WMCABs can advise whether a product requires WaterMark certification and if so, whether a new or amended product specification needs to be developed to enable the product to be evaluated. Once this has been established, WMCABs can provide assistance with the development and acceptance of a product specification in accordance with the WaterMark product specification requirements. Further information about WaterMark, including contact details for WMCABs, may be found on the ABCB website www.abcb.gov.au

Anyone wishing to propose a new project to develop a new, or update an existing, Standards Australia WaterMark product specification (TS or Australian Standard) will need to complete and submit the Proposal Form available from Standards Australia's website www.standards.org.au. Proponents should contact Standards Australia's Water & Waste Services National Sector Manager for direction with drafting and addressing the criteria in the proposal form.

A Project Proposal to develop a new, or update an existing, Standards Australia WaterMark specification or standard can be submitted to Standards Australia during any planned project round and is not subject to the NCC three year amendment cycle.

Key Dates regarding AS/NZS 3500 to be referenced in NCC 2022

- **From now until August 2018**
 - Contact Standards Australia with your proposal to revise AS/NZS 3500
- **August 2018**
 - Last chance to submit proposals to Standards Australia
- **1 June 2020**
 - Draft revisions to AS/NZS 3500 complete
- **1 May 2021**
 - AS/NZS 3500 publishing deadline
- **1 May 2022**
 - States and Territories adopt NCC 2022, and thus revised AS/NZS 3500