

WELS Regulator Communication – New Standard

The *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Determination 2013 (No. 2)* has been amended to give effect to a new WELS standard: *AS/NZS 6400:2016 Water Efficient Products – Rating and Labelling*.

Changes from the previous standard include:

- Allowing four-star showers (high pressure only), provided they meet new test requirements
- Allowing six-star toilets and changes to how the star ratings are calculated (lavatory equipment)
- New label designs.

Application of the new standard

The new standard applies to all WELS products registered for the first time on or after 18 August 2016. For WELS products registered prior to 18 August 2016, the new standard applies from the time registration is renewed, with the exception of some high pressure showers as described below.

High Pressure Showers

The Determination allows high pressure showers with nominal flow rates of more than 4.5 L/minute and not more than 7.5 L/minute, that are registered on 13 September 2016, to be maintained in accordance with the performance, testing and labelling requirements of the previous standard (AS/NZS 6400:2005) until 1 July 2020. After that date they must be registered under the new requirements. Alternatively they can be registered under the new requirements at any time before that date.

Labelling Requirements

The new WELS Standard specifies new labelling requirements, including label designs, for all WELS products. The label design has been changed to make the label simpler and provide more accurate information to consumers about the relative water efficiency and consumption of products. The new labelling requirements will apply for all WELS products registered for the first time after 18 August 2016. For WELS products registered prior to 18 August 2016, the new labelling requirements will apply from the time the registrations are renewed.

To assist industry in transitioning to the new label designs and reduce costs in meeting obligations under the new standard, the WELS Regulator intends to focus on education and encouraging adoption of the new label designs for WELS products registered prior to 18 August 2016. Until 22 July 2018, products registered prior to 18 August 2016 with labels that clearly and accurately present the WELS star rating, water consumption information and alignment with product registration will not be a key target for compliance activities. This is consistent with a risk-based approach to compliance and the aim of compliance activities in optimising operation of the WELS Scheme.

The new Ministerial Determination is at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2016L01293>, and the full legislation is at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2013L01574>.

The department is continuing to sponsor the free download of the standard. To obtain your copy of AS/NZS 6400:2016 see <http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/Details.aspx?ProductID=1850116>

If you have any questions please contact the WELS section at:
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