

Plumbing Regulation News Updates are issued as and when necessary, to keep the Tasmanian Plumbing Industry informed of developments occurring in the industry, Tasmanian Plumbing Code and its referenced documents and legislation.

TASMANIAN PLUMBING CODE PRODUCT AUTHORISATION AND SYSTEM ACCREDITATION

Purpose

This News Update is to provide clarification and advice on the status of the BiPu (Bioremediation Infield Personnel Unit's **authorisation** and the MAT(E) (Modified Absorption Trench (Elevated)) **accreditation** under the Tasmanian Plumbing Code.

Background

As a result of the article published in the Sunday Tasmanian (page 19) on 26 September 2004 and the recent exposure on the ABC television program 'the new Inventors' on 29 September 2004 (<http://www.abc.net.au/newinventors/default.htm>) it has been perceived by readers and viewers that the BuPu and the MAT(E) are an accredited on-site waste water management system.

The BIPU was **authorised** as a plumbing product (septic tank) under the Tasmanian Plumbing Code (not accredited as an on-site waste water management system). The BiPu is authorised for use in plumbing installations where there is no sewerage system available for sewage and the Permit Authority is satisfied that the BiPu is able to provide for adequate sanitation. Details of the authorisation issued in September 1999 are available on the internet at <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/resource/xwstplumbing.htm>.

Current situation

The manufacturer of the BiPu is currently seeking re-authorisation.

Building Standards and Regulation has recently advised the agent for the MAT(E) that accreditation is required for the MAT(E) under the Tasmanian Plumbing Code. If and when accreditation is given all permit authorities will be notified.

Further Information

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DEPARTMENT of
INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY and RESOURCES

BUILDING STANDARDS and
REGULATIONS

MEMORANDUM

To: All Council General Managers, Forestry Tasmania, DPIWE
Copy: All Council Environmental Health Officers

Tasmanian Plumbing Code

Authorisation of Plumbing Products and Accreditation of Plumbing Systems

Current Status of: Bioremediation Infield Personnel Unit **[BiPu]**
 Modified Absorption Trench (Elevated) **[MAT(E)]**

The manufacturer/developer of these systems has raised a query with me resulting from the Plumbing Regulation News Update issued on 1 October this year. I am writing to you to advise of the current status of the abovementioned items.

The News Update correctly stated that the BiPu was authorised and that the manufacturer was seeking re-authorisation. Authorisation lasts only 5 years and re-authorisation provides for re-verification of specifications and performance. It is expected that the BiPu will be re-authorised and the applicant is providing existing installation performance data to facilitate this. It is anticipated that re-authorisation will occur before the end of the month and pending that, BiPu remains on the official list of authorised products.

With regards to the MAT(E), a number of these systems have been installed around Tasmania since 1996. The proposal to now accredit the MAT(E) system (a patented wastewater treatment/disposal system), does not affect in any way the legal status of approved existing MAT(E) installations or those currently under consideration.

Robert L Pearce
Director of Building Control

12 Nov 2004