

These news updates are issued as and when necessary, to keep the Tasmanian Plumbing Industry informed of developments occurring in the Tasmanian Plumbing Code and its referenced documents and legislation.

New Plumbing Regulations for Tasmania

The new *Building Act 2000* and *Plumbing Regulations 2004*, commenced on 1 July 2004. The new Act and Regulations-

- retain existing technical standards for plumbing work;
- establish a new Building Regulations Advisory Committee (BRAC) to advise the Minister on the administration of the Act and regulations;
- provide for a new set of approved forms which further standardise the permit and governance process for plumbing work across Tasmania;
- require councils to appoint a Permit Authority to make decisions and undertake inspections within time limits;
- provide for appeals to the Building Appeal Board against Permit Authority (council) decisions; and
- provide councils with more effective enforcement powers to address situations where work by plumbers does not meet technical standards and enables councils to issue on-the-spot fines (infringement notices) when defective or non conforming plumbing work is found.

Building Act 2000 and Plumbing Regulations 2004

The Act and Regulation Repealed and rescinded the following pieces of legislation –

- The *Building Appeals Regulations 1984*
- The *Building Regulations 1994*
- The *Plumbing Regulations 1994*
- The *Town Building Act 1962*
- The *Building (Action Limitation) Act 1997*
- Part 2 of the *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*

Plumbing Regulation 2004

The Plumbing Regulation 2004:

- Updates the local government permit process for plumbing work and sets deadlines for Permit Authorities (councils) to make decisions and inspect works;
- Defines the type of Plumbing Work, requiring permits and Plumbing Work, not requiring permits;
- Requires only approved products and materials be used;
- Calls up the Tasmanian Plumbing Code; and
- Sets out additional technical requirements that are not in the Code.

Plumbing approved forms

The forms for use under the *Building Act 2000* and the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* can be downloaded from the Building Standards and Regulation WebSite at <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/resource/bsrapprovedf.htm> .

Specified List

The *Building Act 2000* requires a number of matters to be specified by the Director of Building Control. These matters are published in the Directors Specified List and can be downloaded from the Building Standards and Regulation WebSite <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/resource/bsrspecified-1.htm> .

Certificates of others

Section 266 of the *Building Act 2000* provides for a permit authority, building surveyor or general manager to rely on a certificate issued by a person qualified as prescribed by regulation. Details of the qualifications and expertise a person must have to issue a certificate as determined by the Director of Building Control in accordance with Regulation 13 of the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* can be downloaded from the Building Standards and Regulation WebSite <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/resource/bsrcertifica-2.htm> .

Legislation

The *Building Act 2000* and the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* are available to be read on line at The Tasmanian Legislation WebSite which gives free public access to most Tasmanian legislation. The WebSite address is <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/index.w3p>