



Tasmania

# Plumbing Regulation *Advisory Notes*

## Building Standards and Regulation

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources  
30 Gordons Hill Road Rosny Park or PO Box 56 Rosny Park Tas. 7018

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These advisory notes are issued to assist in the interpretation of Tasmanian plumbing legislation and to keep all relevant stakeholders informed of developments in the plumbing industry.

### DPIWE - DRAFT EMISSION LIMIT GUIDELINES FOR SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANTS - CALL FOR COMMENT

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIWE) has prepared draft emission limit guidelines for sewerage treatment plants that discharge pollutants to fresh and marine waters.

The emission limits in the guidelines are a result of an extensive review of current processes within the wastewater industry. They represent a treatment standard that is economically viable and achievable using accepted modern treatment processes.

Copies of the draft guidelines are available from the DPIWE's internet site:

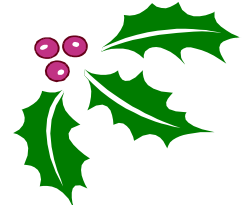
<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/env/environment/>

When you access the site select the link for the guidelines on the page and they will be downloaded in Portable Document Format.

If you require further information regarding the draft guidelines please contact the Wastewater Unit, Environment Planning and Scientific Services on 1300 368 550.

Written comment on the draft guidelines is sought by January 19, 2001 and should be sent to:

Steve Gallagher  
Environmental Policy Section, Environment Planning and Scientific Services,  
Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.  
GPO Box 44A, HOBART, 7001.  
E-mail: [steve.gallagher@dpiwe.tas.gov.au](mailto:steve.gallagher@dpiwe.tas.gov.au)



Please circulate to:

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### AS/NZS 3500.5 Domestic Installations - Update!

The objective of the Standard is to describe in a simplified way the installation requirements for hot and cold water services, sanitary plumbing and drainage and stormwater drainage. Alternate systems will not be included in this Standard and references to alternative methods will be referred to relevant Parts of AS/NZS 3500.

As previously reported the Standard will incorporate extracts from the current series of the Plumbing and Drainage Code to suit domestic plumbing installations. In the August 2000

Plumbing Advisory Note it was also reported that the Standard would incorporate a colour scheme. Standards Australia has since decided against the colour as they could not justify the cost involved and therefore, decided not to adopt colour coding of the individual sections.

The document is currently with the printers and is proposed to be released on the 15th January 2001.

### Contents

- ◆ (DPIWE) Draft emission Limit Guidelines for sewerage treatment plants-Call for comment.
- ◆ AS/NZS 3500.5 Update!
- ◆ Guidelines for the installation and operation of aerobic wastewater treatment systems Update!
- ◆ AS/NZS 1547 Update!



To keep Local Government, Statutory Authorities, Engineers, Designers and the Plumbing Industry informed on developments, and to assist in the clarification and interpretation of parts of the Act, the Plumbing Regulations, and the Tasmanian Plumbing Code, this new series of advisory notes will be issued as and when necessary.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE INSTALLATION AND OPERATION OF AEROBIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS UPDATE!

It has been brought to the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources attention that the above Guidelines are not being enforced at all times when permitting the installation of aerobic wastewater treatment systems.

This Department has not issued new directives or any amendments to the guidelines to date.

The Guidelines are currently under review.

Until such time as a new policy is adopted the Guidelines are to be adopted and interpreted in accordance with the current regulatory framework.

The Guidelines form the basis for approval and conditions for approval of all currently accredited aerated wastewater treatment systems (AWTS) in Tasmania.

This Department is represented on the Joint Australian/New Zealand Standards Water Safety Committee WS/13/04. The committee is currently working on the Draft AS/NZS 1546.3 Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems, which is at the postal ballot stage.

Once the Standard is published it will be recommended to the Building and Plumbing Regulations Board for adoption under the Tasmanian Plumbing Code 1994.

It is proposed to include relevant parts of the current Guidelines in the Tasmanian Plumbing Code 1994 without duplicating those technical aspects in the final draft AS/NZS 1546.3.

Please note that there will be full consultation with all on-site wastewater stakeholders prior to any changes to the Guide.

## AS/NZS 1547:2000 On-site wastewater management Update!

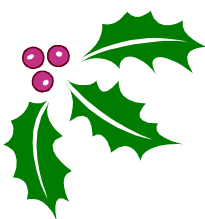
Building Standards and Regulation Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources have drafted proposed amendments to the Tasmanian Plumbing Code 1994 to facilitate the adoption of AS/NZS 1547 as a method of verification of compliance with the Code. These are currently being reviewed by the Building & Plumbing Regulations Board and are necessary to assist Councils in making qualified judgements on applications for on-site disposal systems under the Plumbing Regulations 1994. In the past Councils have had no authorised Codes or Standards for the assessment of the management of such systems.

Recent studies throughout Australia show that septic tanks/absorption trench systems and aerated wastewater

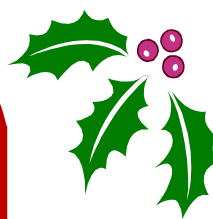
treatment systems are the main type of treatment systems used however, the performance of these systems has been reported as being frequently unacceptable, creating risks to human health and the environment. Recent studies in NSW reported 95% of septic tank and aerated waste water treatment systems failed to meet their guidelines.

AS/NZS 1547:2000 provides improved design criteria for on-site disposal systems which should result in less risk to human health and the environment.

The Standard has the ability to provide guidance on the performance of existing on-site disposal systems which can be implemented through Councils Operational Plan (Strategic Plan) under the heading of "Wastewater Management" when addressing existing installations.



FROM ALL OF US HERE AT BUILDING STANDARDS AND REGULATION, MAY YOU HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



### Building Standards and Regulation contacts

Graeme Hunt Tony Rowell Alan Humphreys	Manager Technical Services Building Advisory Officer Advisory Officer (Temporary)	PH 03 6233 6575 email <a href="mailto:Graeme.Hunt@dier.tas.gov.au">Graeme.Hunt@dier.tas.gov.au</a> PH 03 6233 2010 email <a href="mailto:Tony.Rowell@dier.tas.gov.au">Tony.Rowell@dier.tas.gov.au</a> PH 03 6233 6638 email <a href="mailto:Alan.Humphreys@dier.tas.gov.au">Alan.Humphreys@dier.tas.gov.au</a> FAX 03 6233 8338
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