

Technical Coordinators Report 23rd June 2009

This report covers the technical activities of the organisation and special interest groups. Information supplied from members who have attended Australian Standards committee meetings is included and appreciated.

A list of those committees, representatives and meeting dates is in the attachment.

PPI Special Interest Group Meetings

Taps, Valves & Showers

The group last met on 24th March 2009 in Sydney, with the meeting being chaired by Tim Fisher. The full minutes are available on the PPI Group website, but below are the dot points.

- The Activities of the Australian Standards Technical Committees WS-001, WS-026, CH-034 were discussed and are covered in their own sections in this report.
- The Chairman advised that some Regulators believe that the bulk of the water saving by the easy product options may have been achieved. Also, consequential problems with reduced sewer flows are being experienced and investigated.
- With the changes to flows and reductions in supply pressures, the need or opportunity for combination pressure balanced TMV units was discussed.
- The DEHWA response to WaterMark as a pre-requisite for WELS should be noted. The WELS Regulator has purchased a range of tapware from the local market and now is testing for compliance with the Application and Standard, with comment that non conformances are being detected. It has been reported that the WELS Registration system accepts a change in 'the country of manufacture' of an existing registered product, without requiring retesting.
- The New Zealand Government is seems on target to commence the WELS scheme from 1/7/2009.
- IAPMO is pushing for WaterMark to be a prerequisite at point of sale and are seeking PPI Group support on this issue. The PPI Group Executive is to meet with IAPMO representatives to clarify their intent on this and other matters. Details may be made available to the members at the June General Meeting.
- Members have commented that due to factions in the NPRF and with lack of funding, the inability for National support or consensus has severely hampered the organisation and it is therefore unlikely that the NPRF can take over the complete management of WaterMark scheme from Standards Australia Ltd.
- The PPI Group Executive hopes that the soon to be formed National Construction Council will pick up and administer the WaterMark scheme.
- To date the PPI Group Executive has not received for the members, any written complaint with evidence of non-conforming product in the Australian market. The Chairman suggested that individual businesses must be on the front foot and make a commitment to take the issues up with the authorities / regulators.

- The Chairman commented that at ISH exhibition, issues concerning a ban on Nickel plating on internal waterways for Europe and consideration to supply only Lead Free Brass into the USA to avoid the potential for class action litigation; were the hot topics. Peter Flynn presented a report on Lead Free Brass at the Plumbing Supply Forum seminar held in Sydney on 20th May 2009.

The next TVS meeting is scheduled for July 21st in Melbourne, although consideration may be given to video conferencing if it can be arranged.

Sanitary Ware, Fixtures & Plumbing

The group last met on 24th March 2009 in Sydney, with the meeting being chaired by Jim Longley. The full minutes are available on the PPI Group web-site but below are the dot points.

- The Activities of the Australian Standards Technical Committees WS-003 and WS-032 were discussed and are covered in their own sections below in this report.
- The members are to be provided with a suitable review of AS1730:1996- Hand Basins, relating to load test, fine clays, overflows etc. for discussion. Basins & baths are not considered as a public health risk and therefore are not called up for Watermark. The members were reminded that an application showing the net benefit must be lodged with Standards Australia to raise a project for the review the performance issues of the Standard.
- Re the mechanical trap toilet, this project is on hold with WS-031 until Ausflow completes and reviews with the Regulators the testing on minimum flush volumes.
- Under the WELS Regulations all products within a 'family' must now be tested for their AS6400 compliance in a NATA laboratory.
- The members were advised that WELS have registered WC's that perform outside the Standard prescribed WaterMark volume flush range. The WELS Regulator has been advised and the web-site will be watched by members to see if the ratings of these products are amended.
- The various Cistern & Pan replacement programmes were discussed and the questions were raised, *'Do we initiate replacement programmes for reduced flush volume toilets'* and *'What access is available to Government funds under the water initiatives program for single flush WC replacement in non-residential situations / areas.'*

The next meeting was set for the 21st July in Melbourne, however consideration may be given to video conferencing if it can be arranged.

Large Pipes & Valves

The meetings scheduled on 26th November 2008 in Melbourne and on 25th March 2009 in Sydney were cancelled. The executive will work to re-establish the viability of this Special Interest through increased membership. Ideas, information and support are required; please contact Neil McPherson, Carmel Coate or Mike Peacock if you can assist.

Hot Water Heaters

This group has not yet been formed regardless of the persistence of the executive and therefore at this stage no meeting has been scheduled. Individuals or companies interested in this Special Interest Group should contact Peter Flynn, Carmel Coate or Mike Peacock.

Dept. Environment, Water, Heritage & Arts

On 14th May the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme legislative package was introduced to the Parliament. This also included the Customs, Excise and Fuel Credits amendments for the CPRS. Links to the legislation are available from:

<http://www.climatechange.gov.au/emissionstrading/legislation/index.html>

The following issues regarding the WELS legislation was discussed during the Special Interest Group meetings;

- The DEHWA response to WaterMark as a pre-requisite for WELS should be noted.
- The WELS Regulator has purchased a range of tapware from the Australian market and now is testing for compliance with the Application and Standard, verbal comment is that non conformances are been detected.
- Under the WELS Regulations all products within a 'family' must be tested for their AS6400 compliance in a NATA laboratory.
- The members were advised that WELS have registered WC's that perform outside the Standard prescribed WaterMark volume flush range. The WELS Regulator has been advised and the web-site will be watched to see if the ratings of these products are amended.
- The WELS Registration system accepts a change in 'the country of manufacture' of an existing registered product without requiring retesting.
- The New Zealand Government is thought still to commence the WELS scheme from 1st July 2009. The A.I.G. contacted members of the PPI Group seeking their opinion on some aspects of the proposed legislation and has included comments in their response to the NZ Government.

Standards Australia

Issues for consideration for the PPI Group members must be the future of the WaterMark scheme and future writing of Australian Standards

It would seem that Standards Australia Ltd. wishes to divest itself of monitoring, policing and operation of the WaterMark scheme by the end of this year.

At the Plumbing Supply Forum in Sydney, Standards Australia highlighted that the MOU with the NPRF concludes in December 09 and that progress to date on a continuance or alternate arrangement has been very slow, this was complicated somewhat by the direction of the National Construction Code and the Inter Government Agencies.

No other public comment has been made regarding the likely outcome, by Standards Australia Ltd., the National Plumbing Regulators Forum or the Chair of the P-09 Watermark advisory committee. If significant changes to the operation of the WaterMark scheme or organisations responsible for it are planned, then we need to know well in advance in case there are some negative aspects.

Further concern and actions were voiced by the WS-031 committee as is shown notes for them below.

Standards Australia Technical Committees Activities

BD- 046 - Laboratory design and construction

Refer to Tim Fisher for information regarding this committee's projects and meetings.

BW-000 - Water and plumbing standards coordination group

Carmel Coate advised that this committee has still not met since SAA cancelled all Sector Board committee meetings and no meeting is scheduled.

CE-024 - Measurement of water flow in channels & conduits

The PPI Group has no representative on this committee at this time but AS 3778.1:2009 Hydrometric determinations – Vocabulary & symbols has recently been published.

CH-034 & -05 Materials in contact with drinking water

The PPI Group has no representative on this committee however, Peter Flynn advised that the next round of CH-034 committee on AS4020, may give some direction for Australia on the issue of Lead Free Brasses (<0.25%) and Silicon brass vs. Bismuth for LFB.

CS-028-05 – Solar Hot Water heaters – Working Group

Refer to Peter Flynn for information regarding this committee's or working group's projects or meetings and there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

ME-028 – Screw threads

The PPI Group has no representative on this committee at this time and there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

ME-064 – Access for people with Disabilities

Tim Fisher advised that due to the committee being dormant for some time the Federal Attorney Generals Dept directed a small group of members to complete the review of AS1428.1 immediately and the full committee can comment on the Standard through the Department.

MT-002 – Copper & copper alloys

The PPI Group has no representative on this committee at this time and there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

MT-014 – Corrosion of metals

Refer to Alex Gouch for information regarding this committee's projects and meetings as there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

P-009 WaterMark operations advisory committee

Refer to Tim Fisher or Evan Foster for information regarding this committee's projects discussed at its last meeting on 10 December.

Whilst no minutes are available the issues discussed are of interest to the members of the PPI Group and were briefly covered at the Special Interest Groups meetings today.

PL-006 – Polyolefin pipe systems

Gavin Dehn should be contacted for information regarding this committee's projects and meetings, as there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

SB-000 – Sustainable buildings

Carmel Coate stated the committee has not met since SAA cancelled all Sector Board Committees meetings; no future meeting is scheduled and no public information on Standards Hub. Changes to the committee's terms of reference were covered in the Dec.08 Tech Report.

SF-048 – Emergency shower & eyewash

Refer to Tim Fisher for information regarding this committee's projects and meetings as there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

WS-001 - Water fittings

Outcomes from the Committee meeting on the 28th April 2009 are reported below.

- Amendment 1 to AS3499
- This has finally been agreed after going to combined ballot twice and should be published next quarter. SS wire braiding and SS Ferrules are now specified and it is recommended that flexible hose assemblies be connected to isolation valves.
- The amendment to AS4032.2
- This is approved and is now awaiting publication.
- The amendment to AS1357.2
- This is approved and is now awaiting publication.
- ATS5200.464 conversion to a Standard.
- This conversion was not agreed as more information is being sought due to some errors in the original ATS.

WS-003 – Sanitary Plumbing Fixtures

The chairman Steve Cummings advised that this committee may be reactivated in the next few months to consider recalibrating of urinals following work done by A. Szann.

Whilst there are also requests to review AS1730 Ceramic Basins, applications for project and approval is needed to allow any action on either project.

WS-014 – Plumbing & drainage

The Committee has not met since November 2007 but continues to be active via email responding to referred matters as the major review of all AS/NZS3500 is complete.

A new Project Manager has been appointed by Standards Australia as the committee currently has 6 active projects. No public information available on the Standards Hub.

WS-022 – Valves for waterworks purposes

Scott Michaels advises that the April meeting was postponed and now the next meeting is scheduled for early July. There will be a draft standard presented/discussed to replace ATS 5200.012- In-line ball valves for plumbing.

The PPI Group Executive advises it is seeking to get two extra representatives on this committee.

WS-023 – Backflow prevention devices

Refer to Tim Fisher or Bradley Reid for information regarding this committee's projects and meetings as there is no public information on the Standards Hub.

WS-001 requested a reduction in opening pressure from 7 to 3 kPa for dual check valves used in taps & showers, but it was declined with the recommendation that the product standard be changed, however doing this would put it in conflict with AS/NZS3500.

WS-024 – Meters for cold potable water

Refer to Tim Fisher or Bradley Reid for information regarding this committee's projects, who met recently in May 2009.

WS-026 - Valves primarily for warm & hot water systems

As reported in the March Report The committee met on 27th February 2009 in Sydney and for consideration to finalise amendments or new issues of the following standards:

- AS 1357.2 – Control Valves Used in Warm Water Systems. Awaiting publication.
- ATS 5200.464 - Hot water manual or sensor-activated pumping systems. More info required before 2nd combined Public & Committee ballot.
- AS 4032.2 – Tempering Valves. Amdt 2. Awaiting publication
- AS 4032.3 – TMV Maintenance Manual. Application to resurrect this project has been submitted for approval.

WS-027 – Domestic water treatment appliances

The PPI Group does not have a representative on this committee and no recent activity can be found on the web-site.

WS-031 - Technical procedure for plumbing & drainage products authorisation

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 June 2009, but as the minutes will not be available in time for this report, below are the minutes from the previous meeting held on the 29th April.

WaterMark: The committee was advised that the Chairman had sent an email to the NPRF, requesting an update on developments relating to the handing over the running of the WaterMark scheme to another organisation. No response had been received as of the 29th April 2009.

John Gilbert stated that committee P-009 should discuss the withdrawal of Standards Australia from the running of the scheme in relation to the PCA and AS 5200.000, since significant changes would be necessary to both documents.

The committee was advised that Standards Australia had prepared a statement regarding their withdrawal from the scheme, which would be circulated to relevant bodies and organisations within the plumbing industry.

Committee members requested that they be included in the circulation of any communications regarding this matter. They also requested that the chair of WS-031 relay the committee's concern to the NPRF that it was now only 7 months until SA withdrew from the scheme, and that no alternative organisation has been confirmed to take over the running of the scheme.

Regarding to the WaterMark Website, the secretary advised the committee that during the exercise to provide the number of products listed against each ATS on the Watermark website, it had become clear that a significant number of products had not been uploaded onto the site. All CABs had been contacted to confirm if they had experienced any problems with uploading their information. Many CABs responded that they had been able to upload new information for some time. A list was also provided by one of the CABs stating the approved standards that needed to be added, and standards which had been superseded. Standards Australia is carrying out an internal investigation to establish where any problems may exist.

- **Australian Technical Specifications**

There are 15 ATS that are currently under consideration or review by the committee in consultation with the applicant.

- **Revision of AS 5200.000**

In light of Standards Australia withdrawing from running the Watermark scheme later **this year, the scope for the revision to AS 5200.000 needs to be confirmed.**

- **Acceptable grade of Stainless Steel**

The committee agreed that all new ATS submissions must state that the minimum grade of Stainless Steel acceptable will be PREN 22, following the publication of the amendments to AS/NZS 3500.

- **Scaling Factors**

A decision was made by the committee that all future ATS's should state whether a product was 'In-line' or 'End of line', and specify the actual Scaling factor.

- **Certification of pumps**

Regarding the certification of pumps used for ATS 5200.477 – Rainwater/mains supply changeover, the committee will address the inquiry received from a CAB relating to the certification of pumps under the WaterMark scheme, and in particular their use within heated water recirculation systems.

- **Certification of Water Filter Housings**

The committee confirmed that filter housings can be certified to ATS 5200.103 for use with other manufacturer's filter cartridges, provided these are specified on the certificate and instructions. The filter cartridges themselves do not need to be WaterMarked.

- **Certification of Composite Pipes**

Current and future inquiries for the certification of multilayer and composite pipes not covered in current standards or specifications are to be referred to PL-006, whom are currently working on the cloning of ISO standards that will cover this area. The cloning of these standards is estimated to be completed by November 2009.

- **Certification of Macerators**

The committee will confirm the standards or specifications that Macerators intended for use with sinks and WCs at the next meeting (ATS 5200.028 / EN 1250).

- **Rainwater Tanks**

The committee will confirm whether Rainwater Tanks can be given certification under the Watermark scheme at the next meeting.

- **Frequency of testing under AS 4020**

The committee will confirm the frequency of testing under AS 4020 at the next meeting.

WS-032 – Water efficient appliances

The committee has not met following the postponement of the March meeting, which was done to allow the completion of the combined ballot on amendment 4 to AS/NZS 6400.

The 4 star labelling issues for showers is not included in this amendment

The WS-032 committee structure has still not formally been agreed or changed, however a new Project manager has been appointed by Standards Australia.

The comfort test developed by the working group has now been accepted as being an objective performance assessment for 4, 5 & 6 star showers, but it will probably be at least a year before its introduction.

Mike Peacock

PPI Group Technical Co-ordinator

15th June 2009

Attachment 1

Schedule of Standards Committee Meetings

| Code | Committee Title | Next Meeting Date | Location | Representative |
|---------------------|--|-------------------|----------|--|
| BD-046 | Laboratory Design | Not Set | Not set | Tim Fisher |
| BW-000 | Coordination Group | Not set | Not set | Carmel Coate |
| CE-024 | Water Flow Measurement | Not set | Not set | TBA |
| CH-034 | Materials in contact with Drinking Water | TBA | Not set | TBA |
| CH-034-05 | Working Group | Not set | Not set | TBA |
| CS-028-05 | Legionella -Solar HWH Working Group | Not set | Not set | Peter Flynn |
| EL-020-06 | Electric HWH Working Group | Not Set | Not Set | Tim Fisher |
| ME-028-04 | Working Group | Not set | Not set | TBA |
| ME-064-01 & 02 & 08 | Access & Mobility Working Groups | Not set | Not set | Tim Fisher |
| MT-002 | Copper & Copper Alloys | Not set | Not set | TBA |
| MT-014 | Corrosion of Metals | Not set | Not set | Alex Gouch |
| P-009 | WaterMark Advisory | TBA | Not Set | Tim Fisher Evan Foster |
| PL-006 | Polyolefin Pipe Systems | Not set | Not set | Gavin Dehn |
| SB-000 | Sustainable Buildings | Not set | Not set | Carmel Coate |
| SF-048 | Emergency Eyewash | Not set | Not set | Tim Fisher |
| WS-001 | Water Fittings | TBA | Sydney | T.Fisher M.Peacock D.Stone L.Collins |
| WS-003 | Sanitary Plumbing Fittings | TBA | Not set | T.Fisher S.Cummings J.Edmonds |
| WS-014 | Plumbing & Drainage | Not set | Not set | Mike Peacock |
| WS-014 –1 | Water Supply | Not set | Not set | Peter Flynn |
| WS-014 –4 | Heated Water | Not set | Not set | Peter Flynn |
| WS-022 | Valves for Waterworks | TBA | Not set | Scott Michaels |
| WS-023 | Backflow Prevention | Not Set | Not set | Rex Kilner Bradley Reid |
| WS-024 | Meters - Cold Water | Not set | Not set | Bradley Reid Tim Fisher |
| WS-026 | Valves for Hot Water | TBA | Syd. | D.Stone M.Peacock J.McAuliffe |
| WS-027 | Domestic Water Treatment Devices | Not set | Not set | TBA |
| WS-031 | Technical Procedures Plumbing & Drainage | 16/6/09 | Not set | Tim Fisher |
| WS-032 | Water Efficient Appliances | TBA | Not set | T.Fisher D.Stone G.Crichton |