

1993

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**CANBERRA SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY
REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Circulated by Authority of the Minister for Urban Services

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CANBERRA SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)

The Canberra Sewerage and Water Supply Regulations (Amendment) ('the Amending Regulations') amend the Canberra Sewerage and Water Supply Regulations ('the Principal Regulations') in force under the *Electricity and Water Act 1988*.

OUTLINE

The Principal Regulations regulate the manner in which sewerage and drainage systems and water supply systems may be installed and connected to the systems that are under the control of the Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Authority.

The Amending Regulations amend the Principal Regulations to:

- clarify the interaction between Australian Standard 3500 (known as the National plumbing and drainage code) and the standards which are specifically prescribed in the Principal Regulations and to provide for some flexibility in the application of Australian Standard 3500 so as not to unreasonably inconvenience the building and plumbing industries;

- apply Australian Standard 3500 to water supply systems that communicate with the Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Authority's water supply system; and

- lower the minimum volume of water required to flush a water-closet pan where appropriate.

Details of the Amending Regulations follow.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD 3500

Regulation 3 amends regulation 14A of the Principal Regulations to clarify and modify the operation of Australian Standard 3500. Regulation 14A of the Principal Regulations provides that it is an offence to carry out work on a sanitary plumbing system or a sanitary drainage system to that forms part of, or communicates with, the sewerage

system except in accordance with Australian Standard 3500. This regulation was inserted by No. 10 of 1992 and commenced on 2 October 1992.

Regulation 14A of the Principal Regulations is amended by *regulation 3* to provide that where Australian Standard 3500 is inconsistent with the standards specified in the Regulations then the specific standard of the Regulations applies.

Regulation 3 also amends regulation 14A to provide that the Engineer may approve work that complied with the Regulations as in force before the commencement of No. 10 of 1992 where that work is completed before 31 December 1994. This provision is intended to counteract the transitional difficulties that have arisen with the application of Australian Standard 3500 in the plumbing and building industries.

Regulation 6 inserts a new regulation 97A that applies Australian Standard 3500 to water supply systems that draw water from Australian Capital Territory Electricity and Water Authority pipes. The application of Australian Standard 3500 to water supply systems is subject to the same type of transitional arrangements as are included in regulation 14A by *regulation 3* of the Amending Regulations.

MINIMUM FLUSH REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER-CLOSETS

Regulation 5 amends regulation 80 of the Principal Regulations by omitting subregulation 80(27) and substituting two new subsections. Old subregulation 80(27) of the Principal Regulations specifies that every closet-pan must be furnished with a cistern of not less than 11 litres capacity that is capable of delivering a flush of between 9 and 11 litres.

The two new subregulations differentiate between cisterns that are connected to full-flush closet-pans and cisterns that are connected to reduced-flush closet-pans. Reduced-flush closet-pans and full-flush closet-pans are defined by new subregulation 80(35) which is inserted by *subregulation 5(c)*. The basic difference in the two types of pans is that the reduced-flush pan is designed so that the pan is cleared with a smaller volume of water.

New subregulations 80(27) and (28) also provide for the use of dual-flush cisterns and specifying the maximum and minimum flush volumes for both a half flush and a full flush.

Subregulation 5(b) also amends subregulation 80(32) to specify the maximum and minimum flush requirements for central storage cisterns. Again, the regulations specify different flush volumes for full-flush closet-pans and reduced-flush closet-pans. The amendments do not provide dual-flush volumes for central storage cisterns as these cisterns not capable of delivering different flush volumes.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Regulations 1 and 2 are formal regulations that, respectively, identify the Principal Regulations and provide for the commencement of the Amending Regulations.

Regulation 4 amends regulation 47 of the Principal Regulations so that it also covers interference with, or restricting access to, a sewer main. Regulation 47 of the Principal Regulations only makes it an offence to interfere with or restrict access to an interceptor trap or manhole. The amendment to regulation 47 rectifies the gap by extending the operation of regulation 47 to cover all of the components of the sewerage system.

Regulation 7 repeals regulation 116 of the Principal Regulations. The requirement to notify decisions in regulation 116 is also covered by the more comprehensive regulation 117 which was inserted by No. 10 of 1992. Regulation 116 is repealed to remove this duplication.