



# THE PLUMBING CODE OF AUSTRALIA

INFORMATION & MATERIALS  
FOR  
PLUMBING PRACTITIONERS



**ABCB**



**WaterMark**

*A plumbing or drainage solution will comply with the Plumbing Code if it satisfies the Performance Requirements, **which are the legal requirements** of the Code.*

# THE PLUMBING CODE OF AUSTRALIA (PCA)

The National Construction Code series (NCC) is an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments developed to incorporate all on-site construction requirements into a single code.

The PCA is Volume Three of the NCC series and deals with plumbing and drainage requirements within all buildings.

The goal of the PCA is...

*... to enable the achievement of nationally consistent, minimum necessary standards of relevant safety, health, amenity, and sustainability objectives efficiently.*



Every plumbing practitioner needs to be familiar with the requirements of the PCA.

The PCA and all the NCC volumes are freely available to access online or download in PDF from the ABCB website at: [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)

# WHAT DOES THE PCA COVER?

The PCA deals with all aspects of plumbing and drainage and sets out the minimum requirements for the construction, installation, replacement, repair and maintenance of plumbing systems, specifically:

- ✓ Water Services
- ✓ Sanitary Plumbing & Drainage
- ✓ Stormwater Drainage
- ✓ Heating, Ventilation & Air-conditioning
- ✓ On-site Wastewater
- ✓ Materials and Products: Certification & Authorisation

These sections are adopted through the PCA by legislation within the States and Territories.

Each section identifies the Mandatory Performance Requirements.

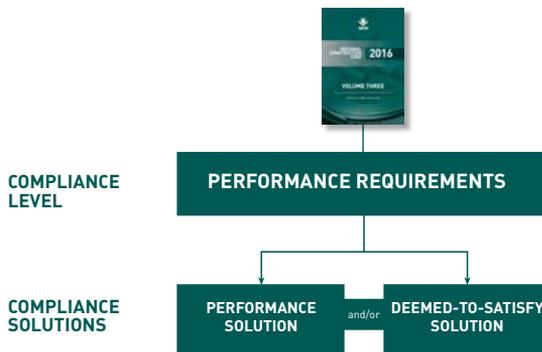
The Performance Requirements of the PCA can only be satisfied by -

- a) developing a Performance Solution; or
- b) using the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions; or
- c) a combination of (a) and (b).

The AS/NZS 3500 suite of Standards form part of the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions of the PCA.

## PCA 2016 A PERFORMANCE BASED CODE

The performance based Plumbing Code (PCA) consists of compliance solutions that enable plumbing or drainage installation to meet the compliance level.



# THE PCA PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

A Performance Solution (formerly known as an Alternative Solution) allows you the flexibility to comply with the plumbing and drainage requirements as an alternative option to the Deemed-to-Satisfy Provisions through AS/NZS 3500. Developing a Performance Solution provides plumbers with new opportunities to undertake plumbing and drainage work.

A range of performance guidance material is available on the ABCB website to provide practitioners with information on how performance is achieved, providing a variety of examples.



To achieve compliance and meet the legal requirements of the PCA, you have a choice.

To find out more on these options, visit the ABCB's website resource library at: [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)

# THE AUSTRALIAN PLUMBING REGULATION FRAMEWORK

## Where does the PCA fit, and why do I need to comply?

The PCA is given legal effect by the relevant legislation within each State and Territory. In conjunction with the legislation it provides industry with the minimum requirements of what is legally required for a plumbing installation.



The State and Territory Acts ensure community objectives are met for the benefit of the community.



The State and Territory Regulations direct us to what we 'must' do to ensure the objectives are met.



The PCA is the 'guiding rule book' – it is the critical link between the regulations and the development of plumbing solutions to ensure they perform in a manner which meets the regulatory obligations.



The Referenced Standards provide much of the 'Deemed-to-Satisfy' Solutions for 'on-the-ground' installations.

# WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER FOR ACCESS TO THE PCA

Play your part in delivering better, safer buildings with high standards of plumbing and drainage installations throughout Australia.

Anyone can register for free access to the PCA at [www.abcb.gov.au](http://www.abcb.gov.au)

Registering will not only provide you with access, but also ensures you will receive important updates and relevant information about the Code. The website also provides you with an ever-increasing amount of:

- practitioner materials for download and online viewing;
- education and learning materials for practitioners, students, educators and trainers; and
- information videos, webcasts and presentations.

These products and materials are designed for all levels of knowledge and experience within the plumbing and construction related industries.

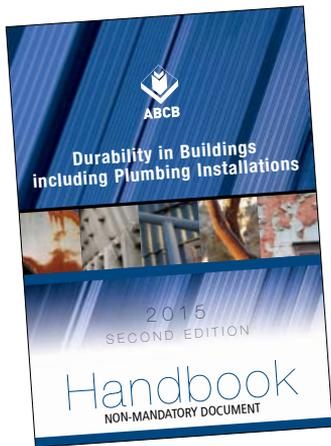


# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

The ABCB website provides an increasing range of downloadable products and materials for the benefit of practitioners, administrators, students, educators and trainers within the plumbing industry and assists those working with the PCA and the NCC more broadly.

## Handbooks

Although predominantly building related, the handbooks contain elements of plumbing specific content. Handbooks are non-mandatory, providing guidance on specific topics considered unsuitable for legislation.



### The **Durability in Buildings including Plumbing Installations**

Handbook has been developed to foster an improved understanding of the durability issues in buildings and plumbing installations. The Handbook can be used by practitioners to develop solutions relevant to specific situations and in accordance with the generic principles and criteria.

Additional Handbooks for the plumbing industry are due to be released in 2017.

# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

## NCC Course Portal

Through the NCC Course Portal, the ABCB promotes training and education courses that are based on NCC Tutor or the Resource Kits and delivered by a University, TAFE or Registered Training Organisation (RTO). The portal allows users to search for courses based on location, topic, or by University, TAFE or RTO.



## New...

**Understanding the NCC** – Energy efficiency provisions for building services including plumbing and drainage requirements.

The Understanding the NCC series provides information in 'plain English' on both plumbing and building requirements. This flyer has been developed for plumbers, electricians and other on-site trades, to help understand how the energy efficiency provisions apply to their daily work.

# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

## PCA Webcasts & Videos

In addition to the range of downloadable materials, the ABCB is developing an increasing number of short videos on the PCA and on contemporary issues surrounding its content and application.

### NCC 2016: Update on the Plumbing Code of Australia

Upon release of each edition of the PCA, a series of webcasts are developed for those working within the plumbing (and building) industries. The most recent webcast identifies changes to the PCA for 2016 which will remain current until May 2019.

The webcast can be viewed online and forms part of a growing channel of existing and planned videos that include:



### PCA: A Critical Component

This clip is a highly informative presentation originally delivered at the Building Australia's Future 2015 Conference. The clip provides an overview of the PCA and the development and use of Performance Solutions as a means of compliance.

# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

## What is WaterMark Anyway?

Also from the Building Australia's Future 2015 Conference this presentation provides information on the WaterMark Certification Scheme and how it applies to the majority of products and materials used in a plumbing or drainage installation.



## Developing Performance Solutions

This YouTube clip provides an easy-to-follow, four step process about developing Performance based Design Solutions. To assist in the development of these solutions, the ABCB has produced a Guidance Document which has been endorsed by a number of industry groups and is the basis of the clip.



# RESOURCES & MATERIALS

## Resource Kits

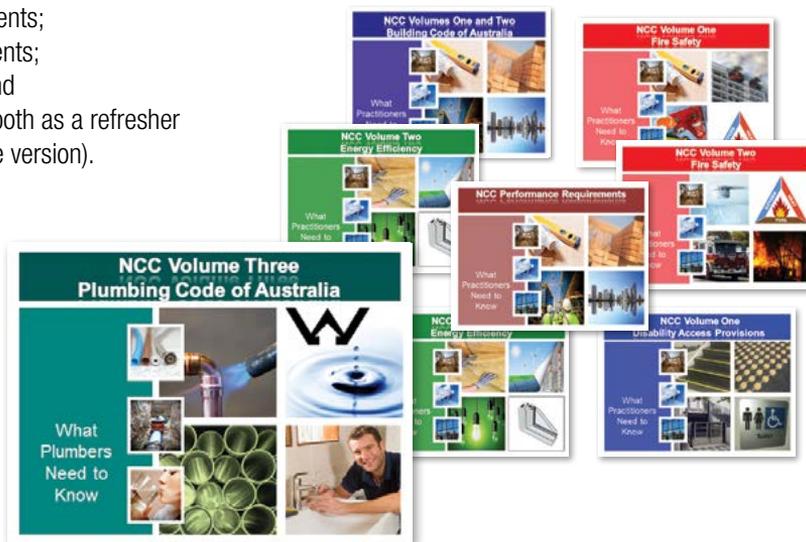
The PCA Resource Kit has been developed to assist training professions, such as teachers, lecturers or registered training organisations in the delivery of current information.

The Kit provides instructions about its use and tailoring for groups at different levels of understanding, and comprises an extensive PowerPoint presentation including lecture notes, FAQs and case studies.

The PCA Resource Kit comprises a master set of slides that can be adapted to suit the following audiences:

- 1st year apprentice students;
- 2nd year apprentice students;
- 3rd year apprentice students;
- Certificate IV students; and
- Plumbing professionals (both as a refresher course and as a complete version).

The Resource Kits can be downloaded from the ABCB website along with further information on how to get the most out of these valuable training materials.



# WATERMARK

The WaterMark Certification Scheme (WaterMark) is a mandatory certification scheme for plumbing and drainage materials and products to ensure they are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use in plumbing and drainage installations.

The ABCB manages and administers WaterMark as a national scheme. The PCA requires certain plumbing and drainage materials and products to be certified and authorised for use in a plumbing or drainage installation. These materials and products are certified and authorised for use through WaterMark.

In order to achieve certification, the material or product must:

- be tested by a recognised testing laboratory;
- comply with an approved specification (either an existing standard or WaterMark Technical Specification);
- be manufactured in accordance with an approved Quality Assurance Program; and
- carry a warranty.

Materials and products complying with these requirements may be certified and authorised for use upon the granting of a WaterMark licence. Licensed materials and products are to be listed on the WaterMark Product Database identified by the WaterMark trade mark, which must be displayed on the material or product.



# INFORMATION SERVICES

## CONNECT

Connect is a periodic electronic publication providing industry with information on regulatory, design, building and plumbing issues and developments.

Articles are developed by the ABCB office and sourced nationally through State & Territory building and plumbing administrations, industry associations and professionals providing expert opinion on regulatory, technical and industry specific topics.

Connect is an information service for all those involved within the construction industry, be it regulators, building designers, structural and hydraulic engineers, builders, plumbers, students and educators.

Ensure you are an NCC registered user to receive your copy when released, or visit the ABCB website.



## Social Media

The ABCB's social media presence provides an important and effective communication channel for practitioners and students to be kept up to date as information and notices become available.

If you are already connected with either Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn, be sure to join the ABCB LinkedIn page, follow us on Twitter, and Like our Facebook page to ensure you have access to the latest information on ABCB and NCC products and services, along with information on related news and events.



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australian-building-codes-board](https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-building-codes-board)



[@abcb\\_ncc](https://twitter.com/abcb_ncc)

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## ABCB Cadetship Program

The ABCB Cadetship program is a 12 month ABCB placement offering applicants the opportunity to further develop their working knowledge and skills within the building and construction industry.

Applicants require good communication, sound research capabilities and strong team work skills. Given the nature of the ABCB's work program, applicants generally have backgrounds in one or more of the following fields: Building Certification / Building Surveying; Building / Built Environment; Construction Management; Architecture; Construction Engineering; and Plumbing or Hydraulic Design or associated field.





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