

Alternative plumbing solutions

Plumbing Advisory Note

Issued August 2014

Alternative plumbing solutions can only be designed by an expert who has the qualifications and experience to determine whether a plumbing or drainage solution complies with the performance requirements of the National Construction Code (NCC) Volume 3 – Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA).

Plumbers who want to use an alternative solution for either a new plumbing system or for alterations to an existing plumbing system must submit a proposal for the solution to the Office of the Technical Regulator (OTR) for review prior to installation.

Plumbers can design plumbing systems using either:

- a **deemed to satisfy** provision complying with the performance requirements of the PCA (deemed to satisfy provisions for plumbing and drainage systems are set out in sections B, C and F)

or

- an **alternative solution** to the deemed to satisfy provisions, which meets the performance requirements of the PCA.

Onsite work related to the alternative plumbing solution cannot commence until the proposal is assessed by the OTR and letter of acknowledgment is received by the applicant.

What does the proposal need to include?

To enable the OTR to assess and verify the proposed plumbing or drainage alternative solution addresses all performance requirements, applicants must provide the OTR with all documentation associated with the alternative solution. A Plumbing or Drainage Solution must satisfy the performance requirements as set out in Clause A0.5 of the PCA.

The submission must include:

- a copy of the proposed hydraulic plumbing design and supporting documentation
- a letter of acceptance from the property owner acknowledging the alternative plumbing solution.

Definition from the Plumbing Code of Australia

Alternative solution means a plumbing or drainage solution which complies with the performance requirements other than by reason of satisfying the deemed-to-satisfy provisions.

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How to submit a proposal

Submissions should be emailed to otr.plumbbldplanapproval@sa.gov.au.

After the proposal has been submitted

When the alternative plumbing solution has been assessed and meets the requirements of the Plumbing Code of Australia, the OTR will register an encumbrance in the form of an advice letter on the property with the Land Services Group of the Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure. The encumbrance will notify the current owner/s and prospective interested parties of the alternative plumbing solution design and installation related to the property.

How long will assessment take?

The OTR will provide a response to the applicant within 14 days of it being received.

Further information

Please contact OTR – Plumbing Services on 1300 760 311 or email otr.plumbenquiries@sa.gov.au.

Contact the Office of the Technical Regulator for more information

Online sa.gov.au/otrplumbing

Email otr.plumbregulator@sa.gov.au

Phone 1300 760 311



Government of
South Australia