

# How to register WELS products

## What do you have to register?

The WELS Scheme requires that taps, showers, lavatory equipment, urinals, clothes washers and dishwashers must be registered and labelled for their water efficiency. Registration of flow controllers is optional.

## How do you apply to register a product?

To register a product you will need to complete an online application form, which includes supplying relevant documentation, and you will also need to pay the registration fee.

Information about the online application process can be found at <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/products/registration.html>

## What requirements must WELS products meet?

The WELS Standard - *AS/NZS 6400:2005 Water efficient products - Rating and labelling* sets out the requirements that products must meet to get a WELS star rating, including, in some instances, minimum performance requirements.

All WELS products also require compliance with certain aspects of other Australian Standards and/or technical specifications. The WELS Standard refers to these in relation to each product type.

The WELS Standard can be purchased through Standards Australia at <http://www.standards.org.au/cat.asp?catid=4>.

## What needs to be provided to register your products?

You will need to provide:

- an online application
- a test report<sup>1</sup> showing the water efficiency of the product as set out in the WELS Standard
- a test report or certification (such as a current WaterMark or StandardsMark certificate, including schedules) showing the product performance in relation to other aspects of Australian Standards and/or technical specifications that the WELS Standard requires
- a sample of the proposed WELS label *and*
- a registration fee.

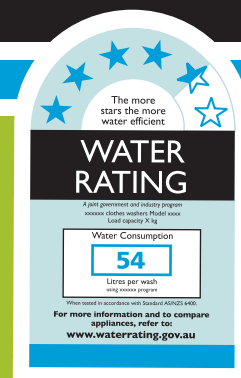
## Where can products be tested?

A list of laboratories is available at <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/publications/contacts-list.html>. Alternatively, go to the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) website at: <http://www.nata.asn.au>.

## Where can sample labels be found?

All the requirements for formatting the sample labels are outlined on the WELS website at <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/publications/labels.html>.

<sup>1</sup> The WELS Standard requires a test report from a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory. For clothes washers and dishwashers, a test report that is prepared for the National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Program, is acceptable.



## Why does a WELS product have to be registered if it does not meet water efficiency or product performance standards?

The WELS Standard requires the testing, rating and labelling of all WELS products, including those that receive a 'zero' rating because they do not meet performance standards.

## How long does registration last?

The registration lasts for five years.

## How much does it cost to register products?

The registration fee is specified in the *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Determination 2005*, and is:

- \$1500 for a product or
- \$1500 for two or more products of the same family of models or
- \$1500 for a set of minor products.

## What is a 'family of models' and how are these registered?

Two or more products can be in a family of models if each product is the same product type and has the same:

- manufacturer
- brand name
- water efficiency rating
- performance *and*
- physical characteristics (that is, characteristics that could affect the product's water efficiency or performance).

Tap equipment may be split into separate families such as single handle mixers, combination taps (e.g. a three hole), bib, pillar or sensor operated taps. To be a family they will also have to meet the other criteria described above.

One test report may represent all the models in a family, or alternatively a test report may be done for each model.

## How will you know your application is progressing?

When an application is submitted, an automatic email will be sent to the contact person listed for the application. This email address will be used for all email notices relating to this application. You will be advised if your application is returned to you for further action. Returned applications require re-submission. From September 2008 you can also check the registration system to see the application status.

## How long does the registration process take?

Applications must be processed within three months of being received. The time taken to complete the registration depends on the complexity and quality of the application. The average time for registration is between four and six weeks.

## How will you know when your products have been registered?

A product is registered once a notice is published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*. When this happens, the applicant will be advised via email.

A link to the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* can be found at <http://www.ag.gov.au/portal/govgazonline.nsf>.

Approximately 24 hours after the gazette notification, the registered product will appear in the WELS product search database at <http://search.waterrating.com.au/>.

## Is help available for the online application process?

An online registration manual is available from the website at <http://www.waterrating.gov.au/publications/registering-online-instructions.html>

## More information?

For more information go to the WELS website at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au) or email [wels@environment.gov.au](mailto:wels@environment.gov.au) or call **1800 803 772**.

August 2008

