

# 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. More information is available at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au).

## How do you apply to register a product?

First you must register your organisation as a supplier of WELS products. Go to the WELS website login page [www.environment.gov.au/wels\\_public/manage/homepage.do](http://www.environment.gov.au/wels_public/manage/homepage.do) and click the sign up hyperlink. Once your request has been approved by the Regulator you will receive login details to access the database.

To register a product you will need to complete an application form preferably online, supply relevant documentation, and pay the registration fee. No applications will be processed without payment being made.

## 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 for WELS registration, including minimum performance requirements for toilets and washing machines. Each product must also meet the performance requirements of the relevant Australian Standard/s eg taps, toilets, washing machines, etc. All plumbing products must have current WaterMark certification.

The WELS Standard can be purchased through Standards Australia at [infostore.saiglobal.com/store/](http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/).

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

To register a product, you need to submit the following for assessment:

- a completed application – preferably online at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)
- test report(s)<sup>1</sup> showing compliance with the WELS Standard
- a current WaterMark certificate for showers, toilets, taps, urinals and flow controllers
- a sample label
- the registration fee and
- written advice from the manufacturer acknowledging that you may apply for registration if you are not the manufacturer of the product(s) to be registered.

## Where can products be tested?

A list of laboratories accredited to provide WELS testing is available at [www.waterrating.gov.au/publications/contacts-list.html](http://www.waterrating.gov.au/publications/contacts-list.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.

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## How do I label my products?

All the requirements for WELS labels are detailed in Annex B of the WELS standard. The standard is available for purchase from [infostore.saiglobal.com/store/](http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/).

## How long does registration last?

The current registration period is five years.

## How much does it cost to register products?

The registration fee is specified in the *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Determination 2007*, 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.

The database will inform you whether payment is required when your application is submitted.

## 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 star rating
- performance

Up to 15 models in the same family can be registered on the one application. Further models can be added to the family in separate applications without incurring a fee.

Each model must be individually listed in your application. This includes models that have the same performance but a different appearance, eg different colours, shapes or handles.

One test report may represent all the models in a family, if they are of the same performance. Examples of how to cross reference all listed models to the test report and/or WaterMark certificate are provided in the database. Alternatively, individual certification may be provided for each model.

## How long does the registration process take?

The average time for processing applications is four to six weeks depending on the complexity and quality of the application.

Applications must be processed within three-months of being received. Applications that are still incomplete or inaccurate at the end of three months may be refused registration.

## How will you know your application is progressing?

You can track your applications yourself; the status of each application is clearly marked on your home page as it progresses through the assessment process.

When an application is submitted, an automatic email will be sent to the contact person listed for the application, advising whether payment is required. An email will also be sent if your application is returned to you for further action. Once you have made the changes required you need to resubmit the application so that it can be processed.

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

A product is not registered until a notice is published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*. When this happens, the applicant will be advised via email. WELS products cannot be supplied until they are registered.

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

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

## Is help available for the application process?

The database has help pages on each tab of the application and in the task menu on the applicant's home page.

For more information

- visit the WELS website at [www.waterrating.gov.au](http://www.waterrating.gov.au)
- email [wels@environment.gov.au](mailto:wels@environment.gov.au)
- call **1800 218 478**

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