**Introduction to variants in the new system**

Hello and welcome to another WELS how to video. This video explains the difference between registering a variant with or without model codes.

We will also introduce individual variants and show you how to include the variants in a new product application. In the WELS scheme, a variant is a version of a registered product that is nearly identical and does not change how much water it uses.

The registered product is called the parent model, and any different version are called variants. A variant is valid where it meets the criteria of a variant and is registered in the WELS registration portal.

Variants are not charged additional registration fees. To qualify as a variant, a product must have the same product type, must have the same subtype, must share the same model name, and have the same critical components and specifications as defined in the WELS standard.

It can also have no changes to design elements or components that affect water use. Some examples of valid variance are different colours or finishes for tapware, showers, toilets, but also pillar height for taps or the display panel for clothes washing machines and dishwashers.

You can choose to register a variant with or without a model code. For variants without model codes, the WELS system includes a list of predefined variant types.

You can select a predefined variant type when adding a model in a new product application or making a minor model edit. When you choose a predefined variant type, you're registering all current and future models that match that variant type.

The predefined list of variant types are different for each WELS, products and subtype. The most common variant type is colour finish.

For example, you can use this option to register all colour variations of your parent model, so it might include colours such as chrome, matte black, or any other future colours or finishes that you might manufacture.

If you want to register a variant with a specific model code, you must create an individual variant. An individual variant includes 1 model code and requires you to select a variant type.

You can select the variant type from either the predefined list or choosing other and entering a valid description. The model code is unique and linked to the parent model.

All of the individual variants will be reviewed and assessed by the WELS registration team. You can add individual variants when you are submitting a new product application on the add model screen or by completing a major model edit request.

All individual variants will appear as a table on the WELS certificate. Variant model codes from the previous WELS system have been migrated into the new one.

All migrated model codes were placed into one individual variant entry. Where the list of model codes is too long, we've split them into two or three variant entries.

Eventually, in the long term, WELS will require that all migrated model codes be split into individual entries. That's one model code per line.

This will ensure that the variant is identifiable in the list and the type of variants are clear. Therefore, we recommend that when you're updating other items, such as a WaterMark product ID in a major model edit request, to please review your individual variants.

At the same time, we have created a new variant type called Supply and Inventory Code. You can use this variant type when the model code is different for tracking or stock management, but the product itself is exactly the same. There is no difference.

The supply and inventory code variant cannot be combined with any other variant type. If the variant has other differences such as colour, finish or pillar size, please use the predefined options or use other.

The other variant type is available when the predefined list does not accurately describe the differences to the parent model. The other variant type can only be used as an individual variant.

You must enter a model code for the variant, and you're required to describe the variant in the free text box provided. This option allows you to explain the unique differences that are not covered by the predefined variant types.

When you select the other variant, you will be reminded that the variant must be the same subtype as the parent model and have the same critical components.