



Australian Government

WATER RATING

WELS Regulator Advice: Requirements for dual-purpose tapware products 21 December 2022

This notice clarifies the technical requirements for suppliers of dual-purpose tapware products, while also supporting industry efforts to reduce the environmental impacts from packaging and maximising value for money for Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) products.

Dual-purpose tapware products are WELS products that are marketed and supplied for optional installation over a basin or bath. These products are supplied with both a flow controller for installing over a basin (WELS product) and an aerator for installing over a bath (non-WELS product).

If the registered products are supplied to other retailers for on-sale, the registrant must ensure that these requirements are communicated to on-sellers as well.

Registration and supply requirements

Under the *Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005* (WELS Act), the following requirements apply to the registration and supply of WELS dual purpose products:

1. **The model name registered with WELS and on the product packaging must have the WELS purpose of the product referenced first - for example: 'ABC basin mixer/bath mixer' not 'ABC bath mixer/basin mixer'.**
2. **The product in the packaging must be in the form for installation over a basin - it must contain the flow controller as the default form.**
3. **The installation instructions must provide clear steps on how the basin product can be changed for use over a bath.**
4. **When offered for sale, suppliers must provide clear information to purchasers that the WELS star rating only applies to the product when installed over a basin.**

Changing the registered name

If your product is registered with a model name that doesn't meet these requirements, please submit an application in the WELS product registration database to have the model name amended as soon as possible after renewing existing product registrations. This must be done even if the product is not to be renewed. You will not be charged any additional fees.

Changes must be submitted **by 21 July 2023**.

The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme is an Australian Government initiative in partnership with state and territory governments.



Product assembly and packaging labels

Correct assembly of the product in the packaging and labelling on product packaging must be in place **before 1 January 2024**.

Installation instructions

Clear installation instructions must be made available to purchasers and they must outline the various uses and installation requirements for dual-purpose tapware products. This must be in place **before 1 January 2024**.

Promotion of existing products

All advertising, print media, electronic and physical display information and other promotional activities for dual-purpose tapware products must present the correct information **before 22 July 2023**.

Monitoring and compliance

WELS is providing information and guidance to assist the small number of suppliers affected to transition to the new requirements by the timeframes set out in this notice.

Over the longer term, we will use a risk-based approach to monitoring and assuring compliance with the requirements.

More information

If you have any questions about the changes, please contact the WELS team via:

Email: wels@dcceew.gov.au

Phone: 1800 218 478 (toll-free within Australia) or +61 2 6272 5232 (international)