

# Mandatory Use of Designated Products registered under Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)





# BACKGROUND

- ◆ In 2009, WSD launched the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS)
- ◆ Products launched in phase:
  - ✓ Sept 2009: Showers for Bathing
  - ✓ Sept 2010: Waetr Taps
  - ✓ Mar 2011: Washing Machines
  - ✓ Mar 2012: Urinal Equipment
  - ✓ Aug 2014: Flow Controllers
- ◆ WELS Labels - to display the grade of water efficiency: **Grade 1 the most water efficient, & Grade 4 the least**





# OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide consumers with information on water consumption of plumbing devices & appliances, water efficiency gradings
- ◆ Help consumers select high water efficient plumbing fixtures & appliances



- ◆ Enhance public awareness on water savings & water efficiency
- ◆ Achieve water savings

ENHANCEMENT



**Voluntary  
Participation**



**Further promotion of WELS &  
the use of water efficient devices**



**Mandatory (WELS)**



# IMPLEMENTATION

## Launch in stages:

- ◆ Stage 1 – mandatory use of designated products (showers for bathing, water taps & urinal flushing valves) registered under WELS at designated parts of premises

 *(launched on 1 Feb 2017)*

- ◆ Stage 2 – Legislative amendments, plumbing fixtures/water-consuming appliances for sale shall be registered under WELS

 *(drafting of framework)*



水務署

Water Supplies Department

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Reference (11) in WSD 3318/50 Pt.6 T/J(1)

20 January 2017

Distribution: To all Licensed Plumbers and Authorised Persons

Dear Sirs,

**WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2017  
Water Efficiency Requirements for Fittings in Inside Service**

To promote water conservation, the Water Supplies Department (WSD) launched the voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (WELS) in 2009 to help consumers select water efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances to save water consumption. To further promote water conservation and enhance the penetration rate of water efficient devices, the Water Authority (WA) considers that after over seven years' implementation of WELS on a voluntary basis, it is now at a suitable juncture to commence the first stage of mandating the use of products registered under WELS. We will issue in subsequent months the final stage of the mandating use of WELS products, for all proposed plumbing works submitted using the Form WWO 46 for designated part of premises as a proposed products to be used for all water supply, water tap and shower, subject to the exemption as set out in Annex A of this letter.

# WSD Circular Letter No. 2/2017 “Water Efficiency Requirements for Fittings in Inside Service”

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with Section 3.5 of the Scheme Document for WELS on water taps, the term “water taps” covers mixing or non-mixing type water taps installed at bathroom/toilet washing basins and pantry/kitchen sinks. Water taps equipped with automatic sensing open/close device or automatic closing mechanism are also included. However, water taps installed at bath tub/shower, any system, machinery and devices such as irrigation system, washing machines, water dispensers etc. which serve for bathing/operational use, are excluded.



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Water Supplies Department



**Affect which type of  
plumbing works**

# PROPOSAL

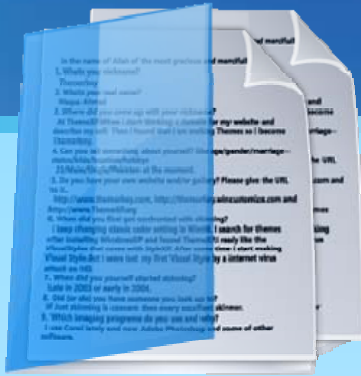
Form  
WWO  
46

Domestic  
kitchens  
bathrooms  
& toilets of  
all premises

Showers for  
bathing,  
water taps,  
urinal flushing  
valves



# PROPOSAL (CONT'D)



- ◆ Annex to WWO46 shall be listed with details of fittings to be installed for the Water Authority's approval
- ◆ In accordance with WELS registers and lists of fittings with valid General Acceptance (GA)
- ◆ Compliance with water efficiency requirements:

<i>Designated products</i>	<i>Water efficiency</i>
Showers for bathing	<b>Grade 1 or 2</b>
Water taps (for use in kitchens)	<b>Grade 1, 2 or 3</b>
Water taps (for use in toilets)	<b>Grade 1 or 2</b>
Urinal flushing valves	<b>Grade 1 or 2</b>

# PROPOSAL (CONT'D)

## ◆ 12-month grace period



## ◆ Exemption will be considered on a case-by-case basis



## ◆ Amend WSD publication “Hong Kong Waterworks Standard Requirements for Plumbing Installation in Buildings”

# PROPOSAL (CONT'D)

- ◆ For a water tap or shower for bathing not complying with WELS requirements



- ◆ Flow rate test for “combined” water saving device

1 Feb 2017

*Starting from 1 Feb 2019*

“Combined” water saving device can be used

**Test reports must be submitted**

# PROPOSAL (CONT'D)








## ◆ Form WWO 46

Home > Public Forms

**Public Forms**

Guidance Notes on Form Format : [PDF Form](#)  
[Contact WSD](#)

### Water Supply

Form No.	Form Title	Download Form	Fillable PDF Form	Guidance Notes
WWO 46	Application for Constructing, Installing, Altering or Removing an Inside Service or Fire Service (Version 1/2017) [Only Applicable to submission made on/after 1 February 2017]			N/A
	Application for Constructing, Installing, Altering or Removing an Inside Service or Fire Service (Version 10/2015)			
	Application for Constructing, Installing, Altering or Removing an Inside Service or Fire Service (Version 6/2012a) [Only Applicable to submission made before 1 November 2015]			N/A



# PROPOSAL *(CONT'D)*

- ◆ **Recognition Mechanism – to recognise devices registered under water efficiency schemes in other jurisdictions to promote more choices**
- ◆ **Submit valid test reports & substantiate the respective overseas registration**
- ◆ **Save testing procedures & related cost**
- ◆ **Engage consultancy study**



# PROPOSAL *(CONT'D)*

## ◆ Overseas water efficiency schemes:

<i>Countries/Regions</i>	<i>Name of Schemes</i>
Australia/New Zealand/ Singapore	Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme
Canada/U.S.	WaterSense
PR China	Water Conservation Certification
Europe	European Water Label
India	Water Efficient Products-India
Malaysia	Guidelines Voluntary Water Efficient Product Labeling Scheme
Spain	National Plan for Efficient Water Use
United Arab Emirates	Emirates Authority for Standardisation and Metrology
U.K.	ECA Water Technology List





# PROPOSAL (CONT'D)

- ◆ Applicants can apply for exemption under following scenarios:
  - ✓ A tender or quotation for the installation of a specified product was made before the soft launch – by submitting relevant supporting documents
  - ✓ On technical issues
  - ✓ On other scenarios



**EXEMPTIONS**

# CONSULTATIONS

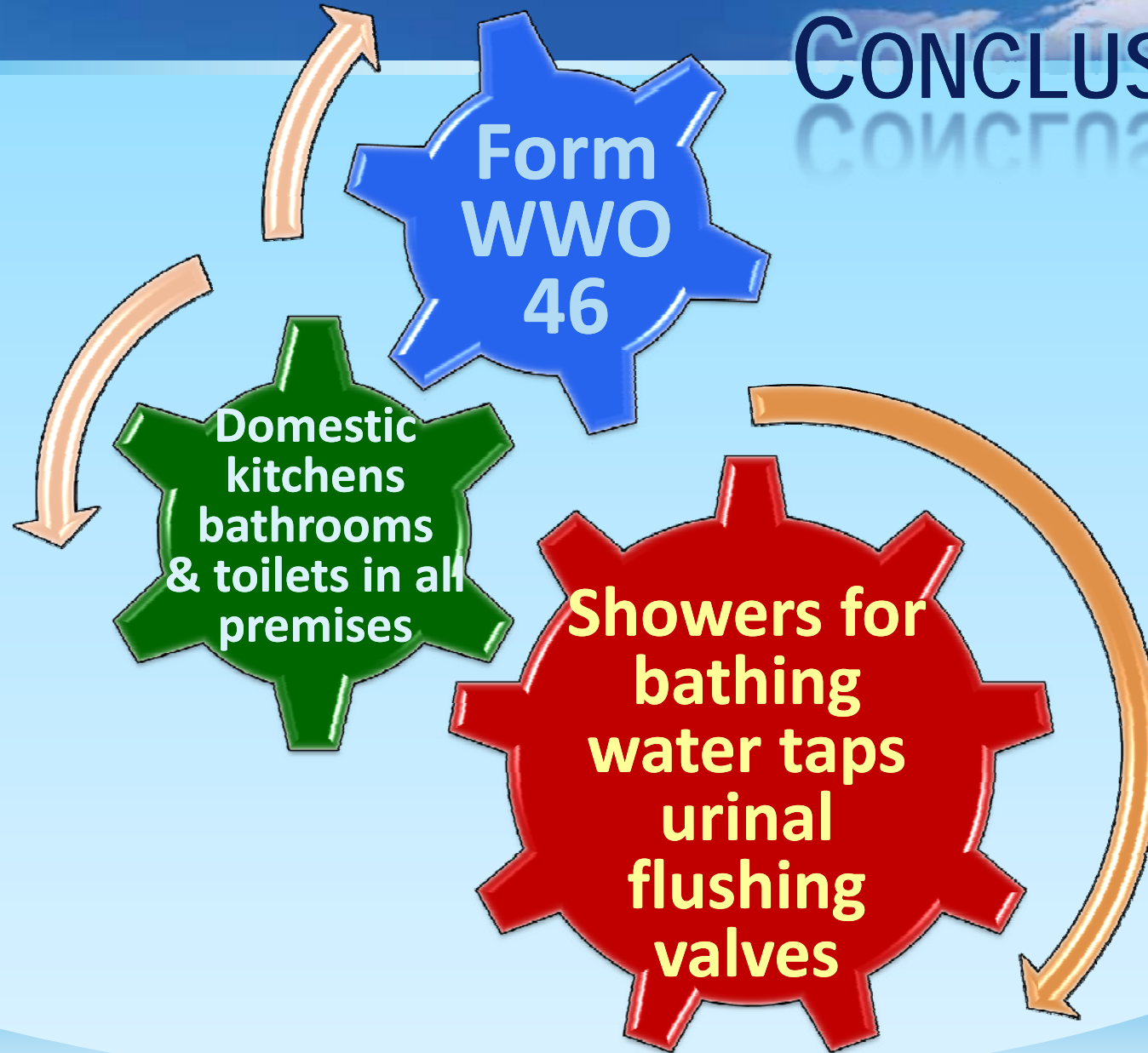


- ◆ Consult various parties such as the Advisory Committee on Water Supplies, the Technical Committee on Plumbing
- ◆ Engage consultant for a Business Impact Assessment (BIA) study of the proposal to identify the compliance difficulties & compliance cost of the trade
- ◆ Consult different stakeholders (suppliers, buyers, service providers, laboratories) via “Focus Group Discussions” (2) & “Face-to-face Interviews” (41)
- ◆ Fine-tune details of the proposal as per results of the consultations & recommendations from the BIA study





# CONCLUSIONS





# CONCLUSIONS (CONT'D)

1 Feb 2017



- ✓ Soft launch
- ✓ "Combined" water saving device can be used
- ✓ New version of WWO46 (1/2017) can be used

Starting from  
1 Feb 2018



- ✓ Full implementation

Starting from  
1 Feb 2019



- ✓ Must submit testing report of "combined" water saving device



**Thank you!**

