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Dear Sir/Madam

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)
MANDATORY WATER EFFICIENCY LABELLING SCHEME
(MWELS) AND TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER FITTINGS**

We have been receiving enquiries on the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MWELS) which will come into operation from 1 Jul 09 as well as on testing requirements for water fittings. We would like to share some of these enquiries with you in the form of FAQs.

2 The FAQs given in the Appendix are for your information and necessary action where applicable.

3 Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Victor Lau Kam Kok at Telephone Nos 67313518 or 67313850 respectively if you require further clarification.

4 Thank you and best regards.

Yours faithfully



LOH MUN WAH
SENIOR MANAGER (INSPECTORATE)
for DIRECTOR
WATER SUPPLY (NETWORK) DEPARTMENT

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Will taps and mixers, dual flush low capacity flushing cisterns (LCFCs), urinal flush valves and urinals that are already listed under the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme be required to go for further additional testing before they can qualify and be considered for labelling under the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MWELS)?

PUB would like to remind all suppliers and retailers that only water fittings complying with the requirements and standards stipulated by PUB are allowed to be advertised, displayed or offered for sale, supply or installation in Singapore. These water fittings must also be supported with valid test reports showing compliance with PUB's stipulated requirements and standards. Suppliers/retailers must produce these test reports for verification upon request by PUB. More information on PUB's compliance requirements for water fittings including PUB's stipulated requirements and standards for specific water fittings can be found at PUB's website at www.pub.gov.sg/general/Pages/FittingsandStandards.aspx. Maximum allowable flow rates and flush volumes at water fittings can be found in the Singapore Standard CP 48 - Code of Practice for Water Services. If requirements and standards for a water fitting are not stipulated, the supplier, retailer or installer must approach PUB to stipulate the necessary requirements and standards for compliance.

Water fittings that are covered under the Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MWELS) such as taps and mixers (sink/bib/shower/basin), dual flush low capacity flushing cisterns (LCFCs), urinal flush valves and urinals and the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme such as showerheads and clothes washing machines must also comply with the above mandatory compliance requirements before they can qualify and be considered for labelling.

Under the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, PUB allowed self-regulation by suppliers and had put the onus on suppliers to ensure that their water fitting had been tested to comply and meet with the mandatory requirements and standards stipulated by PUB for the particular water fitting and were also supported with valid test reports showing compliance with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards before proceeding for water efficiency testing to determine its efficiency rating. Hence, PUB only checked test reports for water efficiency testing. Test reports showing compliance with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards were not checked.

However, random checks conducted by PUB revealed that many suppliers had failed to ensure that their water fittings had been tested to meet PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards and were also not supported with valid test reports. Hence, going forward, for mandatory and voluntary water efficiency labelling, PUB has decided that suppliers must also submit test reports to show that their water fitting has been tested to comply with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards for the particular water fitting in addition to test reports for water efficiency testing before the water fitting can qualify and be considered for water efficiency labelling. As such, if a water fitting has already been listed under the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme, it will not be required to go for any additional water efficiency testing. However, the supplier must produce the relevant test reports to show the compliance of the water fitting with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards before the water fitting can be considered for labelling under MWELS. If it is found that certain mandatory testing has not been done, the water fitting will have to undergo the testing to show that it complies with requirements before it can be considered for labelling under MWELS.

For dual flush LCFCs, can independent WC flushing cisterns and WC pans be tested separately and independently and the independent test reports utilised to support interchangeable sale, supply and installation of flushing cistern with pan and vice versa?

For all types of dual flush LCFCs, the WC flushing cistern must be tested together with the WC pan with which it is intended to be coupled for sale, supply and installation including advertisement and display. Independent WC flushing cisterns and WC pans must be tested together with the respective WC pan or flushing cistern with which they are intended to be coupled with.

The above requirement is compulsory for tests that are dependent on both cistern and pan such as flushing tests, etc. For tests on flushing cisterns that are independent of the pan, valid test reports for such tests on the cistern already conducted will continue to be accepted for labelling under MWELS. However, the applicant seeking labelling must furnish a written approval from the cistern supplier authorising the use of the relevant cistern test reports. The same will be applicable for tests on pans that are independent of the cistern. Valid test reports for such tests on the pan already conducted will continue to be accepted for labelling under MWELS. However, the applicant seeking labelling must furnish a written approval from the pan supplier authorising the use of the relevant pan test reports. The dual flush LCFC shall only be registered as one WC suite under MWELS.

For testing of water efficiency flow rates for taps and mixers for MWELS, why is there a need to test for the flow rates for different brands and models of taps and mixers if the same type of constant flow regulator of the same rating is incorporated in all of the taps and mixers?

The design of a tap/mixer affects the hydraulics of the flow of water through it differently. Hence, the flow rate from the tap/mixer is affected also by the design of the tap/mixer notwithstanding that the same type of constant flow regulator of the same rating is incorporated. This is also the reason why testing for the flow rate must be done with the constant flow regulator incorporated in the tap/mixer. Hence, there is a need to test for the flow rates for different brands and models of taps and mixers notwithstanding that the same type of constant flow regulator of the same rating is incorporated in all of the taps and mixers.

To achieve a “3-tick” rating for dual flush LCFCs under MWELS, the dual flush LCFC must have a full flush of 3.5 litres or less and a reduced flush of 2.5 litres or less. In addition, if the full flush is less than 3.5 litres, the dual flush LCFC must undergo and pass a laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes. If a dual flush LCFC had obtained a “3-tick” rating under the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme and its full flush volume is less than 3.5 litres, will the LCFC be required to undergo and pass the laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes before it can be considered for a “3-tick” rating under MWELS?

If a dual flush LCFC had obtained a “3-tick” rating under the Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme and its full flush volume is less than 3.5 litres, the LCFC must undergo and pass the laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes before it can be considered for a “3-tick” rating under MWELS. Thus far, all “3-tick” dual flush LCFCs listed under the Mandatory and Voluntary Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme have full flush volume of 3.5 litres. As their full flush volumes are not less than 3.5 litres, they are not required to undergo and pass the laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes.

Presently, a Working Group under SPRING Singapore is working out the details of the laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes to be incorporated into a new Singapore Standard for dual flush LCFCs. Until the Standard is ready, suppliers who want to register their dual flush LCFC for a “3-tick” water efficiency rating under MWELS if its full flush volume is less than 3.5 litres shall approach PUB to stipulate the details and requirements of the laboratory simulation test on waste transportation efficiency in pipes for testing and compliance.

Can water fittings that have not been tested yet to comply with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards or labelled under MWELS (in the case of water fittings that require labelling under MWELS from 1 July 2009) be displayed in show flats and show houses?

The display of water fittings in show flats and show houses is not allowed if they do not comply with PUB's stipulated mandatory requirements and standards and are not supported with test reports showing compliance with the stipulated requirements and standards. Additionally, water fittings that are covered under MWELS such as taps and mixers (sink/bib/shower/basin), dual flush low capacity flushing cisterns (LCFCs), urinal flush valves and urinals can only be displayed if they have been registered and given the water efficiency label. They must also be displayed with their water efficiency labels.

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