

## **Obtaining AS/NZS2712 Certification for Accreditation and Compliance with the NZ Building Code.**

### **Introduction**

The NZ Building Code require SWH systems installed in buildings covered by the Code to be AS/NZS 2712 compliant and installation to be in terms of AS/NZS 3500.4. SWH mains pressure hot water storage tanks are to meet NZS 4606.1 (NZS 4602 for low-pressure copper thermal storage electric water heater) unless exempt from Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS). NZS4606.1 and NZS 4602 will be eventually superseded by the new Standard AS/NZS 4692 that is due to be published soon. However, the predecessor of AS/NZS 4692, AS 1056, as well as NZS 4606, will still remain valid until confidence is built in the new test method introduced by AS/NZS 4692.

SIA Accreditation Criteria also requires compliance to AS/NZS2712 and AS/NZS3500.4.

Compliance to AS/NZS2712 for SWH Supplier Accreditation is demonstrated to SIA by provision of an acceptable test report from an approved test facility. At this point in time SAI Global is the only certifying body for SWH Systems in New Zealand.

### **Who holds Certificates**

A register of suppliers of SWH systems who have obtained AS/NZS 2712 certification is on the SAI Global website <http://www.sai-global.com> ( then go to certification register )

### **Obtaining Certification**

Certification can be obtained for a complete SWH system (both collector and hot water container may be supplied as approved system components) or for collectors alone. The certificate will specify what components of a system are covered by the certificate.

To obtain a certificate contact should be made with SAI Global ( [assurance@sai-global.com](mailto:assurance@sai-global.com) or Rainer Koch - [Rainer.Koch@sai-global.com](mailto:Rainer.Koch@sai-global.com) , +61 2 82066935), The SAI Global website <http://www.sai-global.com/assuranceservices/ProductCertification> provides a guide on the certification process, application forms, ... however it is best to discuss this directly with SAI Global so that you can ensure you are doing things correctly.

SIA Global will require testing of agreed samples to the AS/NZS2712 requirements to be undertaken by an approved test facility (see my comment above). SIA Global do not do the testing themselves. Approved test facilities are:

- PTL – Plumbing Testing Laboratory  
37 Lemnos Street , Shenton Park WA 6008 Australia  
Contact: Hank Vandenberg  
Tel: +61 8 93807499  
e-mail: [hank.vandenberg@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:hank.vandenberg@watercorporation.com.au)

- VIPAC Engineers & Scientists Ltd.  
279 Normanby Road, Port Melbourne VIC 3207 Australia  
Contact: Norman Broner  
Tel: +61 3 96479700  
e-mail: [normb@vipac.com.au](mailto:normb@vipac.com.au)

There are currently no approved SWH System test facilities in NZ.

Testing for AS/NZS2712 can cost around \$25,000 and take around 3 weeks once the system is delivered to the laboratory.

Testing for AS/NZS2712 is usually done in conjunction with system performance calculations to AS4234. It is expected that AS4234 will be adopted in NZ before the end of the year so if you are getting AS/NZS2712 testing done it would be efficient to get the system performance calculations done at the same time.

### **Testing Requirements**

In Australia the Office of Renewable Energy Resources (ORER) has appointed Prof.Graham Morrison from the UNSW to perform the energy efficiency calculations to be undertaken in terms of AS 4234 and ORER. From this the Renewable Energy Credits for each system are calculated. Other testing laboratories who will be acceptable in NZ may be able to do the calculations

AS/NZS 2712 requires system performance testing using either by outdoor testing to AS2984 or in a solar simulator test method to AS2813.

For a collector only certificate testing the relevant parts of AS/NZS2712 and performance in terms of AS 2535.1 is required, the performance data is necessary for use in energy efficiency calculations (AS4234) and for customer information.

A different SWH system or representative of range of different system require verification testing to AS/NZS2712 and will be reflected on the certificate schedule for each different system group.

It is recommended that full system performance calculations be done which will require pumped systems to nominate the tanks included in the system for which the calculations are to prepared

### **Revision of AS/NZS2712**

You should note that AS/NZS 2712 is currently undergoing revision with the amendment currently being finalised.