



Water Industry Skills Taskforce Communique April 2016

Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems 2016

The Water Industry Skills Taskforce (WIST) met on the 15th April to approve a number of amendments to the Proposed National Certification Framework 2012 (Operators within Drinking Water Systems) and formally appoint a Certifying Body.

Amendments to the Proposed National Certification Framework 2012 for Operators within Drinking Water Systems

The amendments to the Framework relate primarily to issues that have been raised through the Queensland and New South Wales certification implementation pilots and industry feedback received through the amendment consultation process.

The key amendments to the Framework include:

- A new name, 'Certification Framework for Operators within Drinking Water Treatment Systems 2016'
- Inclusion of specific requirements and conditions around appointment and operation of 'Certifying Bodies'.
- Recognition of the 'Framework Coordinator' role.
- Adoption of 2 System Rating levels for treatment plants (instead of the previous 3):
 - Low Complexity for plants with one barrier, or treatment process, or less, and
 - High complexity for plants with two or more barriers, or treatment processes.
- Inclusion of a procedure for certification of contractors.
- Updated unit requirements to reflect the new National Water Training Package (NWP). Units from NWP01 that have equivalence to NWP07, are also deemed acceptable in the Framework.
- Alternative to completion of the ADWG unit (previously NWP279A) – may now be attained by another 'Framework Owner and Certifying Body-approved training course.'
- Addition of details around continuous improvement/ review.
- A number of editing and other minor amendments.

The new Framework document is available on the Australian Water Association (AWA - www.awa.asn.au) site and Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA - www.wioa.org.au) site.

Formal Appointment of a Certifying Body

At the meeting on the 9th October 2015, the WIST agreed to set specific requirements and conditions around Certifying bodies and that it would appoint Certifying bodies based on them meeting these criteria. The criteria for initial selection included:

- Establishment of a Quality Assurance System



- Industry expertise
- Viable business model
- Capacity for data management
- Documented future direction for their Certification activities
- Capacity to service the industry nationally

In February 2016, the WIST invited current and previous organisations that have acted as certifying bodies to apply for appointment as a 'Certifying Body' by addressing the above criteria.

The WIST is pleased to announce that WIOA was formally appointed as the national Certifying Body at the WIST meeting on the 15th April. WIOA will initially be appointed for a period of 5 years.

Further information on how to apply for certification through WIOA is available at www.wioa.org.au, and progress updates on the program will be published from time to time.

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