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Guidelines for applying and interpreting AS/NZS 4020, Products for use in contact with drinking water

Standards Australia
WATER SERVICES ASSOCIATION of Australia

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Guidelines for applying and interpreting AS/NZS 4020: Products for use in contact with drinking water

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PREFACE

AS/NZS 4020, *Products for use in contact with drinking water* is a complex Standard. It requires —

- a background understanding of water quality issues;
- knowledge of products;
- information about how the products are applied in contact with drinking water;
- an understanding of the effect of leachates on water quality determinands; and
- experience in laboratory procedures, including water quality analyses.

This Guide was prepared because some Committee members of CH/34, the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee that developed the Standard, recognized the need for an accompanying document that explained how the Standard is applied and interpreted. It was not possible to include these details in the Standard.

The Standard has attracted wide interest. It is likely to be used by a number of people having diverse backgrounds, including professional and technical staff in testing laboratories and manufacturing establishments, research and development managers, sales people and interested customers, particularly Water Agencies. The Standard will also provide the basis for determining the suitability of plumbing products for contact with drinking water, as required by plumbing regulators.

Water Agencies increasingly strive to maintain drinking water of high standard for customers and cannot afford to introduce into their supplies products that could jeopardize water quality.

Consequently, there is a need to ensure that products in contact with drinking water in Australia comply with AS/NZS 4020, so that they do not introduce substances that will cause deterioration in quality.

The types of tests included in AS/NZS 4020, and their results, may also be used as an aid to designers of drinking water systems. The results for products indicate suitability for use in contact with drinking water. However, specific aspects of the particular location, including water quality characteristics and soil conditions, may also have a significant effect on the suitability of the product for inclusion in a drinking water system. These aspects are not covered in AS/NZS 4020.

The Guide has been prepared to provide background information and should be read in conjunction with AS/NZS 4020.

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