

Overview: National Metering Standards

From 1 July 2019, any new or replacement meter used for licensed purposes must comply with the National Metering Standards for meter selection, installation and maintenance. This will provide continued confidence in their ongoing performance.

Background

In prescribed water resources areas water meters are required to measure the volume of water taken from bores, dams and rivers. This ensures licensed water use is managed within sustainable limits. There are nearly 14,000 licensed water users across the State, the vast majority of which have installed their water meter(s), where required. Existing meters must comply with the State-wide requirements of the [South Australian Licensed Water Use Meter Specification](#) (the Meter Specification).

What are the new requirements?

South Australia is committed to implementing National Metering Standards for new and replacement meters from 1 July 2019. The National Metering Standards¹ aim to achieve acceptable levels in meter performance and accuracy across Australia.

¹ Includes the National Framework for Non-Urban Water Metering Policy Paper and Australian Standard Meters for non-urban water use AS4747

From 1 July 2019, any new or replacement meter that is used for licensed purposes² must comply with National Metering Standards for water meter selection, installation and maintenance . The three key new requirements are:

1. Pattern approved meters

Meters installed after 1 July 2019 must be pattern approved

Pattern approval is the process of testing the pattern (or design) of a meter against established Australian Standards by an independent body to ensure it retains accuracy over a range of environmental and operating conditions. Pattern approval is sought from meter manufacturers and granted by the National Measurement Institute.

A link to a list of current pattern approved meters is available [here](#) (scroll to bottom of the page). This listing will continue to be updated as additional meters are pattern approved. It should be noted that a meter must also be suited to the intended purpose, installation configuration and operating conditions.

2. Validation of meter installations

Meters installed after 1 July 2019 must be validated by a certified person following installation

While water entitlement holders may continue to install water meters themselves, the installation must be validated following installation by a certified person. A validation includes inspection of a meter and its installation to ensure it is pattern approved, installed to required standards

² This includes meters used for non-licensed purposes (i.e. stock and domestic) but still used to calculate licensed water use



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and is considered to be operating within required accuracy limits. It also consists of installing security seals to ensure it can be clearly identified if the meter installation has been altered or dismantled.

A certified person is someone holding a current certificate issued by Irrigation Australia certifying that the person is qualified as a meter installer and validator. A list of certified persons can be found [here](#).

3. Meter Maintenance

Maintenance on meters installed after 1 July 2019 must be in accordance with the National Metering Standards

This means that any new or replacement meter installed after 1 July 2019 must comply with the National Metering Standards which can be summarised as follows:

- using a certified person to perform certain maintenance work where accuracy of the meter may be affected;
- using a certified person to 'validate' the meter installation if installations are changed or affected by maintenance; and
- testing of a meter where it is necessary to do so to confirm meter accuracy.

A [certified person](#) is someone holding a current certificate issued by Irrigation Australia certifying that the person is qualified as a meter installer and validator.

It should be noted that additional State-wide requirements, including relating to meter maintenance, also apply to meters installed after 1 July 2019.

Do the National Metering Standards apply to existing meters?

Meters installed prior to 1 July 2019 are exempt from the new metering requirements

It is only when a meter is replaced after 1 July 2019 that it will need to be replaced with a pattern approved meter, validated post installation and be maintained in accordance with the National Metering Standards.

Meters installed prior to 1 July 2019 must continue to comply with the State-wide requirements in the Meter Specification.

Further information

The full suite of metering requirements that apply to both meters installed pre and post 1 July 2019 are detailed in the Meter Specification.

Further information, links to key document and FAQ's are available at:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/water-licences-and-permits/metering-water-use>.

If you have any further questions please contact your local water licensing office using the details below. If you require an interpreter or translator, please contact the Interpreting and Translating Centre on itc@sa.gov.au or phone 1800 280 203.

Key contacts

Contact Numbers	Areas managed by this office
Adelaide (08) 8463 6876	McLaren Vale, Northern Adelaide Plains, Western Mount Lofty Ranges, Far North
Berri (08) 8595 2053	River Murray, Angas Bremer, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Mallee, Marne Saunders, Peake Roby and Sherlock, Clare Valley, Barossa Valley, Eyre Peninsula
Mount Gambier (08) 8735 1134	South East Region

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