

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Government Buying Standards for showers, taps, toilets and urinals

Version	Date	Notes
2.0	November 2015	Minor amendments to criteria where market availability of better performing products and/or standards and labelling have changed.
1.3	July 2014	Minor amendments at transition of SD in Government web pages to GOV.UK
1.2	August 2010	Introduction of minimum mandatory criteria and revision of best practice criteria.
1.1	May 2008	Introduction of best practice

1) *Water-efficient taps*

Mandatory level

Kitchen taps	<p>Flow rates of between 4 to 6 litres/minute with all mixers having a clear indication of hot and cold with hot tap or lever position to the left.</p> <p>Non flow rate elements shall meet the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA) Water Technology List criteria.</p>
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Best Practice Level

Kitchen taps	<p>Flow rates of between 4 to 6 litres/minute with all mixers having a clear indication of hot and cold with hot tap or lever position to the left.</p> <p>Flow rates of less than 4 litres/minute are not recommended for kitchen taps.</p> <p>Non flow rate elements shall meet the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA) Water Technology List criteria.</p>
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2) *Bathroom Automatic Taps and Sprays*

Mandatory level

Bathroom Automatic Taps and Sprays	<p>Flow rates of up to 6 litre/minute (from European Water Label (EWL) green band).</p> <p>Non flow rate elements shall meet the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA) Water Technology List criteria.</p>
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Best Practice Level

Bathroom Automatic Taps and Sprays	<p>Flow rates less than 4 litre/minute delivered through either automatic shut off, screw down/lever, or spray taps (from AECB 'Best Practice').</p>
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	Non flow rate elements shall meet the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA) Water Technology List criteria.
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3) Showers

Mandatory level

Showers	Flow rates 6 litres/minute (from European Water Label green band)
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Best Practice Level

Showers	Same as mandatory level
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4) Urinals

Mandatory level

Urinals (urinal controls). Purchase of urinal, controls units and urinals with integral control units that reduce water consumption through asset life.	Waterless urinals (odour controlled air vacuum units or biodegradable materials; no chemical components), or 1.5 litre/flush user sensor, or <10 litre/hour max auto control flush. Choice of flush type to be determined based on user numbers. Minimum volume per hour to be chosen (AECB 'Good Practice'). Non flush related elements shall meet the Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme (ECA) Water Technology List criteria.
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Best Practice Level

Urinals (urinal controls). Purchase of urinal, controls units and urinals with integral control units that reduce water consumption through asset life.	Same as the mandatory level.
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Additional Information

- AECB Water Standards: http://www.aecb.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/1503_AECB_Water_Vol_1_V3.pdf
- European Water Label: <http://www.europeanwaterlabel.eu/>
- Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme Water Technology List: <http://www.watertechnologylist.co.uk/>