

Standards Alert

Water Reservoir General Technical Specification – Version 2 is now available.

This updated specification provides users with:

- Clear requirements for the design and construction of water reservoirs and their associated facilities
- Updates to address learnings from deviation requests and stakeholder feedback

Why has the standard been updated?

To incorporate lessons learnt from deviation requests and stakeholder feedback.

What are the key changes?

The key changes are listed below:

- Removal of outdated or redundant requirements that have been superseded over the past 10–15 years.
- Guidance for balancing performance, cost, and risk when referencing this specification to inform renewal projects.
- Greater flexibility around aluminium alloys and dissimilar metal compatibility.
- Greater flexibility for cable routing to reservoir roofs.
- Vermin-proofing requirements.
- Access to roof must be via a stair tower.
- Defined requirements for roof platforms and hatches.
- Revised weld testing requirements, reducing total weld testing length by 20–60% depending on tank size.
- Minimum requirements for signage and labelling.

- Some structural Design Criteria relaxed to be less conservative.
- Cathodic Protection requirements to reflect current best practice.

How do these changes impact users and what are the key benefits?

Changes have been made to create a clearer and more useable specification, and provide a range of benefits to Sydney Water including:

- Reduced delivery time and lifecycle costs associated with cabling and weld testing
- Reduced design delays through clearer requirements, especially for roofs
- Reduced cost and material usage in both roof and tank design
- Reduced risk of water quality impacts through clear definitions and standard requirements
- Consistent safety requirements across sites with minimum site signage specified
- Increased focus towards sustainability



When do I apply the new version?

New or updated standards apply only to projects that commence design development after publication of the standard. There is no requirement to apply them retrospectively.

Project managers, however, have the discretion to apply new requirements to in-flight projects where they see benefit.

Where can I find the new version?

The specification is available on [iConnect](#) (for SW staff), [SW Delivery Portal](#) (for SW contractors), and [SW website](#).

How can I provide feedback?

If you have any feedback on this specification, please contact the author by email at: standards@sydneywater.com.au.

Please feel free to pass on the link for this standards alert to others that may benefit.