

Standards Alert

WSA 04 - Sewage Pumping Station Code of Australia - Sydney Water Edition is now updated.

WSA 04 - Sydney Water Edition 2026 has been updated to consolidate Sydney Water requirements for the planning, design and construction of wet well sewage pumping stations and pressure mains. This edition integrates requirements previously issued in the *Sydney Water Supplement to WSA 04:2005-2.1* and the *Supplementary design guideline for sewer pressure mains*. Accordingly, these two documents will be withdrawn from circulation.

Why has the standard been revised?

The existing *WSA 04:2005-v2.1 Sydney Water Edition 2012* applies to sewage pumping stations up to 200 L/s. Over time, stakeholders have highlighted ambiguities and gaps that require formal resolution.

To address these issues and reflect evolving practice, Sydney Water has progressively introduced additional requirements since 2021, including:

- Updated Sewage Pumping Stations (SPS) deemed-to-comply (DTC) Drawings (June 2021)
- The Sydney Water Supplement to WSA 04–2005–v2.1, which addresses stations exceeding 200 L/s (September 2024)
- An updated SPS Design Checklist (March 2025)
- The Supplementary Design Guideline for Sewer Pressure Mains (August 2025)

In August 2024, WSAA released *WSA 04:2022-v3.2*, introducing major updates to improve quality and meet industry best practice.

This revision of *WSA 04 – Sydney Water Edition* brings everything together: it consolidates current Sydney Water requirements, incorporates the latest national updates, resolves accumulated stakeholder feedback, and drives consistent application across Sydney Water standards and specifications.

What has changed from the previous version?

Key changes include:

- Includes requirements from the *Sydney Water Supplement to WSA 04* and the *Supplementary Design Guideline for Sewer Pressure Mains*
- Safety grilles are now required for fixed covers to reduce risk of falls
- A minimum 600 mm clear access is now required between bypass pipework to allow safe valve access
- Reduced flange rim clearances to side walls and the base in the valve chamber to optimise valve chamber size
- For stations with design flows ≤ 200 L/s, emergency bypass pipework to be sized for peak wet weather flow (not peak dry weather flow) to improve station resilience
- Added a pump-out point to the emergency bypass that enables pumping from the inlet maintenance hole/ wet well to tanker trucks
- Added toilet facility for remote stations to support hygiene and workplace health
- Removed redundant low level induct vent at the discharge maintenance hole
- Discouraged the use of barometric loops due to increased power consumption

What are the key benefits and impact to users?

Streamline compliance

- Consolidates requirements from *Sydney Water Supplement to WSA 04:2005-2.1* and *Supplementary design guideline for sewer pressure mains* into *WSA 04:2022-v3.2* as a single document.
- Improves usability by resolving conflicts and ambiguities
- Removes duplicated requirements with other standards, reducing 631 pages to under 350 pages

Faster Design and Lower Costs

- Aligns with current standards and specifications
- Enables quicker design cycles and lowers upfront costs
- Some requirements may lead to minor increase in capital expenditure balanced by improved performance, safety and reduced operating cost

Improves Safety and Maintainability

- Reduces risk of falls through fixed covers with safety grilles
- Provides adequate working space between valves for safe operation and maintenance
- Enables quicker and safer interventions during emergency bypass e.g. pump-out point in the banded emergency bypass

Sustainability

- Lowers carbon footprint due to reduced material use e.g. removal of induct vent at discharge maintenance hole
- Reduces need for additional power consumption e.g. discourage use of barometric loops

Supports innovation

- Supports O&M innovation to use station pumps and starters during emergency bypass to maintain full pumping station operation

When can I start using the new standard?

When new or updated engineering standards are published, they apply to projects commenced after the publication date. 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 standard?

WSAA publishes Codes of Practice, which include Sydney Water versions. These are available through their [website](#).

Sydney Water has purchased access for our staff. The new Code is available through the [guide](#) on iConnect.

How can I provide feedback?

If you have any feedback on this standard, please contact the author by email at:

standards@sydneywater.com.au.