

Standards Alert

Technical Specification – Asset Commissioning and Transition to Operation Version 3 is now available.

This specification outlines Sydney Water's minimum requirements for commissioning, testing, verification, operational readiness and handover of new, renewed or modified assets into operation. The update transforms D0001440 from a largely prescriptive document into a clearer, simpler, and more outcome-focused standard. It improves usability, scalability, and alignment with asset management and project delivery requirements.

Why has the standard been updated?

The update was driven by the routine review cycle, stakeholder feedback, lessons learned, and the need to better align with the Infrastructure Investment and Capital Delivery (IICD) value chain and current industry best practice.

Feedback on the existing specification indicated that users required a document that is clearer, easier to apply, and more scalable across different asset types, project sizes, and delivery models.

The revision was informed by extensive internal and external stakeholder engagement, including 186 individual feedback comments and 12 working group workshops, which generated a further 267 comments across 39 themes. It also incorporated benchmarking against industry best practice and reference to the commissioning guideline issued by the Institute of Commissioning & Assurance, in the absence of an applicable ISO or Australian Standard.

Overall, the update aims to enhance clarity, usability, and alignment with asset specific requirements by shifting from long lists of prescriptive steps to a focus on achieving desired commissioning outcomes.

What are the key requirements and key changes?

Key changes from the previous version include:

Purpose, content and structure:

- Restructured D0001440 into a suite comprising the core specification, D0001440.01 Templates, D0001440.02 and subsequent Asset Specific Acceptance and Commissioning Requirements.
- Changed the focus from a prescriptive commissioning document to an outcome-based commissioning specification for all project types, scales, and delivery models.
- Included four hold-point checklists: Commissioning Readiness, Pre-commissioning, Operational Readiness and Asset Handover.

Language, clarity and simplicity:

- Refined commissioning stages and clarified terminology in line with industry best practices.
- Clarified that acceptance requirements and commissioning planning begin during the concept design phase, and that the Service Provider's commissioning planning is initiated as soon as practicable after the delivery model is defined or the contract is awarded.
- Defined roles and responsibilities and an updated RACI with a focus on stakeholder consultation, endorsement, and key decision points.

How the new document structure is intended to work

The main specification (core document) defines principles and mandatory commissioning outcomes and requirements, commissioning processes, RACI, checklists, and supplements. It sets consistent expectations across all projects without being overly prescriptive or asset specific.



The D0001440.01 templates document contains supporting detail, methodologies, and templates that assist users in demonstrating compliance with the Main Specification.

D0001440.02 and subsequent asset specific acceptance and commissioning requirements provide tailored requirements for different asset types, reflecting their unique complexity, risks, and operational needs. These documents will be progressively prepared and published.

D0001440.02, covering wastewater pumping stations, is planned to be published approximately four weeks after D001440 Version 3.

Until an applicable asset specific document is published, users are to apply the core outcomes of main specification alongside the relevant appendices, supplementary material, project requirements, and applicable Sydney Water standards.

What users should do differently

- Begin commissioning and acceptance planning during concept design and continue it throughout design, construction, commissioning and handover.
- Use the Commissioning Plan to define the agreed methodology, work packages, stakeholder consultation requirements, hold and witness points, scaling decisions, and acceptance criteria.

What are the key benefits and impacts?

Key benefits and impacts compared to the previous revision include:

Improved usability and clarity of outcomes:

- The main specification is more concise and easier to navigate, with clear separation between mandatory outcomes, templates, and asset-specific requirements.

Enhanced scalability:

- The commissioning methodology can be scaled based on asset type, project complexity, and risk, while still ensuring that all agreed outcomes are achieved and properly documented.

Earlier planning and reduced late-stage issues:

- Commissioning and acceptance criteria, asset data and information, control system integration, temporary operating modes, cutover, and operational readiness are addressed earlier in the design and delivery phases.

Clearer operational transition:

- Interfaces between commissioning, operational readiness, temporary operating modes, process proving, and completion are more clearly defined, supporting a smoother transition to operations.

Flexibility and delivery efficiency:

- Service Providers can use existing systems and equivalent processes to demonstrate compliance with required outcomes, rather than being constrained to a single prescriptive approach.

When do I apply the new standard?

This specification applies to all projects that commence the design development phase after the publication date of this document. It is not mandatory to apply this specification retrospectively to projects that began prior to its publication.

For projects where design development commenced before the publication date, project managers may, at their discretion, choose to adopt this specification either in full or in part to enhance compliance and safety outcomes, improve commissioning processes, increase delivery efficiency, and facilitate a smoother operational handover.

Existing assets are not required to be upgraded or modified to meet the requirements of this specification.

Where can I find the new standard?

The standard is available on:

- [iConnect](#) (for our staff)
- [SWDelivery Portal](#) (for our delivery partners)
- [Sydney Water website](#) (for public users)

How can I provide feedback?

If you have any feedback on this specification, please contact us at standards@sydneywater.com.au.