



WESTERN AUSTRALIA HEALTH FACILITY GUIDELINES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

CIRCULAR TO LICENSE HOLDERS REGARDING 2025 UPDATE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUERY	RESPONSE
1. What is new in the Guidelines?	The new Guidelines recognises the regulatory hierarchy of various Acts and Codes and aligns technical criteria with Victoria and NSW guidelines in the relevant section of the WA document.
2. What are the major changes in the revised guidelines?	Some of the changes of note include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- clarity regarding application of WAHFG for facilities within the wide variety of licensed/ unlicensed premises or with licensed/ unlicensed services.- greater emphasis on engineering services being aligned with the clinical needs for the facility.- update to encourage better use of modern practices and technologies.- additional briefing data aligned with Eastern States documents.- requirement to complete a Declaration of Conformance as part of the submission for each approval phase AIP, ATC, ATO.- minor works decision matrix
3. Who is accountable for the Declaration of Conformance?	The facility licence holder is accountable for the Declaration of Conformance submitted to LARU. While technical input and certification may be provided by engineers or consultants, the declaration represents the licence holder's formal assurance to the regulator.
4. Does this change expectations of engineers and consultants?	Engineering consultants are expected to provide clear documentation demonstrating how the design meets the Guidelines and to explicitly identify any departures. This supports the licence holder in meeting their assurance obligations. It does not transfer regulatory risk and accountability to the consultant.



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5. Are the new Guidelines applied retrospectively?	The new Guidelines are not applied retrospectively. Projects that have been granted Approval in Principle (AIP) or approval to construct (ATC) prior to the publication date of the new Guidelines will continue to be assessed in accordance with the AIP/ ATC.
6. Will there be a grace period for compliance with the requirements of the new Guidelines for licence holders planning building works.	There may be a grace period applicable to submissions granted AIP after the date of release of the new Guidelines. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
7. If a licence holder is building, refurbishing or extending a non-clinical area within the licensed facility (such as offices, café, retail or similar), is a submission required to LARU?	An engineering services submission is required where the non-clinical area is supported by engineering infrastructure or emergency response systems or egress may be affected by the change.
8. Are the Guidelines applicable to the public sector for the design of public hospitals and healthcare facilities?	The Guidelines are applicable as a design guide to the public sector for the design of public hospitals and healthcare facilities. Compliance is mandatory when referenced in the project specific brief or used as guidance when no other project specific briefing exists. The AusHFG Part E: Building Services and Environmental Design was retired in June 2020. All States and Territories now refer to their own Guidelines.
9. How should issues related to implementation of the guidelines be raised?	Queries should be raised directly with LARU via email to WAHFGEngineering@health.wa.gov.au or telephone 0448 736 063.
10. Will further support be available after publication?	Two information sessions will be offered in March for LARU engineering panel members and interested stakeholders. There will be the option to attend in person or on-line. Register for attendance WAHFGEngineering@health.wa.gov.au Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 5:30pm- Thursday 26th March 2026 at 5:30pm