

EFFICIENCY LABELING OF WATER APPLIANCES, FIXTURES AND PROCESSES

Water requirements in buildings constitute a high percentage of the total city water use profile. Although the nature of indoor water use is governed by the functions of the building occupancy, maximum water is used in the toilets. Within the toilets, most water is used by the plumbing fixtures like water closets, urinals, faucets and showers.

Reducing water consumption without sacrificing the functional aspect and thereby improving water efficiency in buildings can, therefore, be one of the keys to sustainable water management in a city.

Globally, countries & water utilities have established norms for water-efficient fixtures. The Water Efficiency Labeling Scheme of Singapore is a case in point. The scheme applies to showers, wash basins and sinks taps, low capacity flushing cisterns, urinals and urinal flush valves, washing machines and showerheads. Australia's Water Efficiency Labeling and Standards (WELS) require certain products to be registered and labeled in accordance with the Water Efficiency Labeling and Standards Act of 2005. So also, Water Sense in USA. According to the American Water Works Association (AWWA), by installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking them for leaks, households in the US can reduce daily per capita water use by about 35 percent.

In India, a 2009 Survey by Tata Consulting Engineering conducted in Mumbai found that by using simple water-efficient fixtures, a five-member household could save (on an average) about 35-40% of water every day.

Hence, the easiest and least-intrusive way to reduce water use is to replace existing fixtures and appliances with those that conserve water. Water-conserving

WATER CLOSETS

URINALS

LOW-FLOW

SHOWERHEADS

FAUCETS



can have a significant reduction in water use. Many facilities which installed such appliances and fixtures have reduced their water use by up to 30 percent. Those who have converted to low-flow devices are receiving a payback for their investment in as little as one to three years.

Rating System for water Efficient Plumbing Fixtures- A Way to Sustainable Water Management in India: Ministry had worked with Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) and Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) on Water conserving fixtures and fittings, to be implemented initially as a Voluntary effort and may become a law later. The rating system is looking at fixtures such as Washbasin faucets (public), Sink faucet, handheld bidet spray, Showerhead, hand held shower, Urinals and water closets besides the automatic controls, metered delivery fixtures and waterless urinals. The road map has been finalized by CSE. In the meanwhile, Ministry of Water Resources is setting up the National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (NBWUE) which will take up these efficiency measures.

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*To be confirmed